Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 289 | THURSDAY DECEMBER 3, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you believe federalization will bring prosperity to the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of December 2, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Intense Race

Former first lady Imelda Marcos has joined Manny Pacquiao in a star-studded race for the lower house.

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J-Lo Video

Home videos featuring Jennifer Lopez and a movie project based on them won't be coming to a screen near you.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Career Exploration Day impacts students' decisions. **PAGE 3**

Four NMC students awarded $8,800 scholarships. **PAGE 5**

Fitial extends CUC emergency; cites new waste oil, sewer concerns

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended for another 30 days the declaration of a state of disaster emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., citing new problems mostly in waste oil and wastewater, as well as continued management crisis and lack of legislative relief.

Fitial's Nov. 25 executive order extending the emergency declaration did not specifically mention that CUC accrued $630,000 in penalties in the first six months for not complying with the

See FITIAL on Page 4

Up to $25 per hour for Census workers

Jobs spur interest among former govt, private officials

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Borja

The Census 2010 has attracted former government and private sector officials, and is expected to spur more interest among other community members who would be paid anywhere between $15.94 an hour as enumerators to $25 an hour as interpreters.

See CENSUS on Page 4

PAY RATES

Full and part-time positions will be available for the 2010 CNMI Census. Employees will work 10 to 40 hours per week.

FIELD POSITIONS
Enumerators: $15.94 per hour
Crew leader Assistants: $15.94 per hour
Crew Leaders: $17.19 per hour
Field Operations Supervisors: $18.75 per hour

QUALITY OPERATIONS
Quality Check Crew Leader: $17.19 per hour
Quality Check Supervisor: $18.75 per hour

OFFICE OPERATIONS STAFF
All clerks: $12.50 per hour

INTERPRETERS
All interpreters: $25 per hour

Source: 2010 CNMI Census

'Feds will see need for NMI-only H-2 visa'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Outgoing Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski reiterated yesterday that the "true solution" to the mandated reduction in the number of foreign workers is

See FEDS on Page 4

Int'l ballet stars headline 'Sleeping Beauty' concert

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts will offer a grand spectacle when it stages the "Sleeping Beauty and Concert of Ballet Stars" this weekend, featuring an international and local cast of ballet dancers.

Sixty academy students will be joined on stage by 10 international ballet stars from Russia, Japan, and South Korea this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the Palms Resort Saipan.

See BALLET on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Six ballet dancers from Russia, Japan and Korea pose with Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts president Dr. Gene Sylvester Eagle-Oden and creative director and choreographer Anna E. Glushko during a rehearsal yesterday afternoon for the Dec. 4, 5, and 6 performance called "Sleeping Beauty and Concert of Ballet Stars" at The Palms Resort in San Roque.

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Local

Fong: Hawaii judges on call for Immigration Court

Assistant Chief Judge Thomas Y.K. Fong shows the new Saipan Immigration Court of the U.S. Department of Justice, located on the third floor of the Marina Heights II Building in Puerto. An open house and orientation presentation was held at the court yesterday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Although no permanent judge has been assigned yet to the Saipan Immigration Court, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Thomas Y. K. Fong said yesterday that they have judges on call who can hear cases immediately, if necessary.

The Los Angeles-based Fong said the judge who will hear cases on Saipan will likely be from Honolulu, Hawaii.

"We have the court there and that's the nearest judge physically," said Fong shortly after conducting an open house and orientation yesterday morning.

"Our intentions are to have a judge available at least two half-days a week for cases here if necessary, and more if the caseload calls for it," he said.

Fong was appointed assistant chief judge in 2006, holding supervisory responsibility for all courts in both the District of Hawaii and Central District of California. He is the chief judge responsible for the Saipan Immigration Court.

"I will be supervising any judges and staff that are coming here," he said.

Fong said he is on island for two reasons: to conduct an outreach program to explain the court to the people, and to hear cases if there are any filed during his visit.

"As the supervisory judge here, I want to make sure the court is opened properly. I am also here to do outreach and meetings with people, legal firms, media, government officials and, if I have to, hear cases here," he said.

He disclosed he will have another judge here next week, on detail for two weeks.

"If I do come again, I will do so for both reasons. Obviously, I come here to supervise and hear court cases as well as take, if there is any, administration matters," Fong said.

He said the Saipan Immigration Court will hold video teleconferencing if there are emergency motions, such as if someone needs a bond hearing or a determination right away.

"We're not going to say we have to wait until a judge comes here. We have judges available on call for duty," he said.

As to how long an immigration case is completed, he said this depends on the case.

"We have some cases that may be held and completed in a day. Any case may take months to be completed. Or a number of multiple hearings may be needed to determine the issues," he said.

Even after a judge makes a decision, Fond said the parties have a right to appeal and file it with the appellate courts of immigration appeals and ultimately with the Ninth Circuit of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Fong was only 34 when he was appointed immigration judge—the youngest at that time. He is the first of Hawaiian/Asian descent. He has received many awards, including a 1993 presentation as an Outstanding Young Attorney from the Southern California Chapter of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Brigham Young University, his alma mater.

Fong arrived on Saipan last Saturday, his first visit to the CNMI.

"It's a marvelous place. People are friendly…just a nice environment…a place I will enjoy coming again, not on business but just coming again," he said.

He said he will probably return in late January or early February. "I will probably make a site visit here in the next six months or so to make sure everything is clear and smooth," he added.

NMI Bar Association president Maya Kara, who was among those who attended yesterday's presentation, said she was impressed with the Immigration Court's facilities.

"They seemed like they've done their homework. The judge was very, very cordial, very informative. We just have to see how it goes. Certainly, they have the facilities, physical facilities. How the law is going to be implemented, how they will treat our people, is another question altogether," Kara said.

Census 2010 JOB FAIR

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Dates, Times and Locations to complete an application and be tested are as follows:

Saturday, December 5th from 11:00am – 4:00pm
at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe

Monday, December 7th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm
at Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria in Koblerville

Wednesday, December 9th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm
at Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High School Cafeteria in Kagman

Thursday, December 10th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm
at Tanapag Elementary School Cafeteria in Tanapag

Testing will take 30-45 minutes and will be offered every half hour for applicants with a completed application. Please bring a picture ID in order to complete the testing on the day of the Job Fair. Practice tests are available on the 2010 Census Website at ***http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/documents/Practice_Test.pdf.***

A police clearance is not needed to apply and will be completed prior to employment if selected, along with a mandatory drug screening. Both the police clearance and the drug screening costs will be reimbursed after hire. Other US Census employment requirements are as follows:

- **Must be at least 18 years old and a high school graduate or have a GED. Some people, however, may be hired at age 16 if they meet conditions of employment set by local laws and are high school graduates.**
- **Be a U.S. citizen (However, if not a U.S. citizen, an applicant may be considered if qualified workers are still needed as translators or enumerators with special language skills)**
- **Have a social security number before being appointed.**
- **Must submit to the FBI fingerprint screening.**
- **Pass a written test of basic skills**
- **Have a valid driver's license (for most field jobs)**

Applications can be picked up at the Local Census Office or at OPM and completed in advance of the Job Fair. Please bring the completed application to the Job Fair.

All information about job opportunities is posted on 2010 CNMI Census tab on the CNMI Department of Commerce website at http://www.commerce.gov.mp . Further information is also available by calling the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.

Local Census Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm and the office is located on International Terminal Loop next to the Saipan International Airport. For more information please call the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.

Ex-convict sentenced to two years for violating probation

The federal court has revoked the probation of an ex-convict and sentenced him to two years in prison.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Jeffrey Indalecio Celis on Tuesday for violating his probation.

Munson allowed Celis to obtain his GED while in prison, receive drug counseling, and get any vocational or technical training. The judge also recommended that Celis be allowed to attend Bible study. Munson asked the Bureau of Prisons to incarcerate Celis in Oregon—if possible.

Celis was convicted of three cases of burglary, and one case of robbery from 1995 to 1997.

In September 1999, the federal court sentenced Celis to 120 months and placed him on three years of supervised release for possession of a firearm.

On Aug. 5, 2009, Celis allegedly attacked a man with a large knife in Koblerville. He was arrested, but he later posted bail.

The U.S. government moved to revoke his supervised release after the U.S. Probation found him violating some conditions, including continued use of methamphetamine or "ice" and marijuana. Celis also allegedly slapped an inmate at the Department of Corrections on Oct. 10.

The Superior Court in October issued an arrest warrant for Celis in connection with the robbery at Prince Hotel in Sadog Tasi.

Celis was found concealing marijuana in his underwear when U.S. Marshal agents arrested him in Garapan that same month. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Career Exploration Day impacts students' decisions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

For many years, going into military service was the only plan many of the islands' students had in mind. Learning about alternative professions available in the private sector has, however, prompted a significant number of students to consider changing their career plans.

One of them is 16-year-old Brandon Chargualaf, a senior at Grace Christian Academy. "It's been my plan for many years… to go into the military. I didn't expect that I will be considering other option until today," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Chargualaf was among 115 junior and senior students who participated in yesterday's Career Exploration Day, which was organized by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. He was assigned to "shadow" the mechanics and technicians at the Joeten Motors Corp.

"It was a good learning experience for me…and I am glad that I joined this event. After learning interesting things about the company, particularly about being a technician and mechanic, it changed my plans," he said.

Besides the attractive wages, Chargualaf said that just knowing the basics of automotive repair was already rewarding.

Kagman High School senior Ashley Hofschneider, 17, had a similar experience.

She showed up at the Duty Free Shop yesterday at 8am to be exposed to the store's operations. From organizing files to computer work to the actual displays, the student described the whole experience as worthwhile.

"It exposed me to a different kind of job setting. Before, I never thought of exploring a career in office…but now I am considering it after college," she said.

Like Chargualaf, this was her first time to join the Chamber-sponsored event.

GCA senior student Kristin Hofschneider, who was also assigned to "shadow" employees at DFS, said she learned valuable tips that she could use when she pursues her dream to become a businesswoman.

"I've been wanting to major in business…and this gave me a hands-on experience," she said.

Marianas High School's Kay Park, who wants to pursue arts and design after high school, said she got the chance to see how DFS works on its displays and merchandise.

She said it was really important to get the "feel and the experience" of the job before actually getting into it.

Adeleyah Mojica, a senior at Marianas High School, was given the opportunity to know how reporters of *Saipan Tribune* work every day, starting with the basic morning routine of reading the papers, to attending a presentation on the newly created Immigration Court, which is part of the federal transition of the CNMI.

"It was very interesting to see the judges [and] the people from the States, and talk about issues related to federalization. Just knowing the legal terms, how the court functions… were rewarding experiences for me," she said.

Jennifer Sakamoto of Marianas Baptist Academy was accorded the opportunity to work at the Pacific Islands Club's executive department where she met employees and customers.

She said yesterday's experience gave her an appreciation of the work done by hotel employees.

"Now I have better understanding how a hotel works… and maybe I can work in the same field with them," she said.

Career Exploration Day aims to give students a snapshot of possible career options they can pursue.

Businesses treated the students yesterday to a special lunch at the Saipan World Resort during the Chamber's regular monthly meeting.

Shirley's Saipan mourns passing of the restaurant chain's founder

Shirley's Coffee Shop Saipan is mourning the loss of Shirley Lai, founder of the popular diner, who passed away on Nov. 28 in Guam at the age of 78.

Lai

Susan Macario, general manager of Shirley's Coffee Shop outlets on Saipan, was deeply saddened by the death of Mama Shirley, as Lai is affectionately called.

"Shirley's Coffee Shop grew a little dim as word spread that its pillar and inspiration, Shirley Lai, breathed her last. The death of Lai came as an unwanted surprise to all," she said.

Macario shared that she and her crew have always looked up to Lai for the standards she had set in providing clients with exemplary customer service.

She even remembered that Lai was so customer-oriented that she never parked her car in front of the restaurant, leaving the space open for customers of Shirley's Coffee Shop. Lai founded the restaurant in Guam in 1983.

Aside from setting the trend in customer service, Macario said Lai was also an ardent supporter of community service. She said Lai often involved herself in community projects or donates funds for those who are in need.

"For all the good deeds that she is known for, Mama Shirley will always be remembered. She will always be remembered as a woman who was determined enough to succeed. And indeed, she had," said Macario.

On a personal note, Macario said she will always remember Lai as the mother figure she meet and got to know very well when the first Shirley's Coffee Shop was established in 1993.

She added that she did not only lost a business partner but also lost a beloved friend with Lai's passing.

"As we bid goodbye to the beloved woman who gave so much of herself to her family, her clients and the community she belongs to, we also look forward to a contented existence, knowing that she has lived her life well. And that her legacy will live on for years to come," she said.

Lai passed way last Saturday in Guam surrounded by her family. She is survived by her six children—Stella Sung and David, George, Samuel, Richard, and Peter Lai. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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	Aetna	$132.68	No Dental Plan
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
2ND FLOOR, MORGEN BUILDING, SAIPAN MP, 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
December 03, 2009

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Capital Improvement Office Office of the Governor CRM Reference No. TMS-X-2009-X-080	10/06/09	Municipal Landfill Project	Atgidon, Tinian	Major Sitting	Certified Complete - 12/02/09

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

BALLET

From Page 1

Academy president Dr. Gene Sylvester Eagle-Oden presented the visiting dancers during a rehearsal with the local group yesterday. They included couple Alexy Nasadovich and Margarita Rudina from Russia; brother and sister Asami and Keitsuki from Japan; and Shin Heesu and Lee Seung Hyun from South Korea. Four other ballet dancers are expected to arrive from Japan today.

This year marks the academy's seventh year in the Commonwealth.

Eagle-Oden described as "unique" this opportunity for local students to dance and perform with the visiting dancers, many of whom are *primas* (principal dancers).

He lauded the commitment and dedication of the academy's creative director and choreographer, Anna E. Glushko, who makes things possible for her students.

"All these 10 performers appeared in various stages in the world. They're the top in their ballet academy and are principal performers. We're very fortunate to have them here," he said.

Set to the music of Tchaikovsky, *Sleeping Beauty* has been described as the epitome of classical ballet: an opulent and dynamic showing of choreographed stagecraft.

On Friday and Sunday night, tickets to the show are priced at $10 for children and $15 for adults. On Saturday night, the international ballet dancers will be performing in a cocktail show that will also serve as the academy's fundraiser. Tickets are priced at $35 for adults and $15 for kids, with one free drink and a chance to win in the raffle drawing. Doors will open at 6:30pm on Friday and Sunday, and at 7pm on Sunday.

Last year, the academy's show attracted over 7,000 guests in two nights. This year, more are expected to attend the performances. Tickets are available at all Shell gas stations or by calling 483-6271.

FEDS

From Page 1

the establishment of a CNMI-only H-2 visa.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services district director David Gulick urged Chamber members and guests to attend U.S. immigration training sessions from Dec. 4 to 12.

Arenovski and Gulick spoke yesterday at the Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

The Chamber's proposed special visa category that will be exempt from the numerical cap applied in the U.S. would ensure that the CNMI has access to the workers it needs for the foreseeable future.

Although it would be largely identical to the existing federal H-2 visa program, the Chamber-proposed visa would "not" allow egress from the CNMI to Guam or other areas of the United States.

In a written message to Chamber members, Arenovski said "the more that federal officials spend time in our community, the more they will see that we need a special visa category to answer our unique economic, geographic and workforce needs."

Over a dozen officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and component agencies are currently on island for the Nov. 28 federal takeover of CNMI immigration, training sessions, and other public outreach programs to familiarize the community with U.S. immigration laws and requirements.

These visiting officials are in addition to other DHS personnel who will be stationed here for months.

"Regardless, the new era has begun and all of us need to begin to understand and work with our federal visa options. Anyone who is waiting for us to revert to something like the old local immigration system is as delusional as someone waiting for his or her green cards in the mail," said Arenovski.

The CNMI needs foreign labor because it does not have enough U.S. citizens or local workforce to fill jobs in its economy.

But Arenovski said this should not deter the CNMI from seeking and training a local workforce. He cited the 115 junior and senior high school students who joined the Chamber's morning training with employers to help them decide what career to pursue.

Form I-9

Gulick, in his presentation, reminded employers of the need to fill up and submit a Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification Form, every time they hire new employees.

The form is required to be completed for each newly hired employee, regardless of the worker's immigration status, whether U.S. citizens or nonresidents.

Gulick urged employers to help their employees in knowing more about Form I-9 or in filling up their intended section in the form.

Gulick, who has been a favorite guest speaker or resource speaker for group meetings in the CNMI because of federalization, also answered questions from Chamber members, mostly on the advance parole.

The "advance parole" is an option for nonresident workers who wish to travel off-island to re-enter the CNMI and continue working here as long as their CNMI work permit is still valid. The filing fee for advance parole is $305.

The advance parole is separate from the parole status applied to incoming tourists from Russia and China, as well as to four groups of individuals in the Northern Marianas: CNMI permanent residents, immediate relatives of CNMI permanent residents, spouses and children of deceased CNMI permanent residents, and immediate relatives of citizens of Freely Associated States.

FAS citizens are those from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei).

CENSUS

From Page 1

There are over 350 part-time and full-time positions that need to be filled, and this is why the 2010 CNMI Census will be holding job fairs starting this Saturday.

Juan Borja, local office manager for the 2010 CNMI Census, said yesterday the Census 2010 is a "historic undertaking" that has gotten people involved.

Among them is Charles Reyes Jr., who resigned as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary early this month after holding the post for nearly four years. Reyes is now assistant manager for office operations at the 2010 CNMI Census.

John Blanco, former director of the CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, is now assistant manager for field operations at the census office.

Former House of Representatives member and Labor deputy secretary Andrew S. Salas is also now assistant manager for administration at the local census office.

Kathryn Barry, former marketing manager for IT&E, is now the 2010 CNMI Census media specialist, and is in charge of promotions and publicity, among other things.

"My interest in working for the 2010 CNMI Census truly comes from a personal desire to be a part of an incredibly important process of our government," Barry told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

She said it's a privilege to work on a historic project like the Census.

The Census began in 1790 and was written into the U.S. Constitution. Article 1, Section 2, requires that everyone in the United States is counted every 10 years.

In the CNMI, the first census was conducted in 1950, not too long after World War II. The CNMI will thus mark the 60th anniversary of the census locally in 2010.

"I knew I would have the opportunity to work with the people of the CNMI in a different way than I have in the private sector and that it would be a new challenge personally and professionally. Making sure people know that their information is safe and that they can trust the process was also very important to me. In addition, as someone from the private sector, I have seen first-hand how crucial accurate census data is when making business decisions. It's exciting and I wanted to be a part of it," Barry said.

Census data are used to distribute congressional seats to states, to distribute more than $400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year, and to make decisions about what community services to provide.

"The hiring process is somewhat different this time than the previous censuses. For example, we require testing among applicants early on," Borja said.

April 1, 2010

The actual census date will not start until April 1, 2010, but some positions will begin working in early January, although the majority will begin in mid-March.

Employment duration varies from several weeks to several months.

Many full-time and part-time workers will be required to work 10 to 40 hours per week.

The office will soon hire the bulk of the workers needed, including those for field positions: enumerators, who will be paid $15.94 an hour; crew leader assistants, $15.94 an hour; crew leaders, $17.19 an hour; and field operations supervisors, $18.75 an hour.

Census will also be hiring quality check crew leaders for $17.19 an hour, and quality check supervisors for $18.75 an hour.

All office operations staff or clerks will be paid $12.50 an hour, while interpreters will be paid $25 an hour.

"It's a performance-based operation. There are many options for them to earn money. If they don't produce, somebody else could do them. The more they work, the more they earn," Borja said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Chamber guest speaker

Borja was among the guest speakers at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting yesterday at the Saipan World Resort.

He also introduced to the Chamber members and guests the 2010 Census adviser for the CNMI, Rebecca Díaz Cartagena.

In his presentation, Borja encouraged the public to participate in the job fair, the first one of which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 11am to 4pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The second job fair will be held on Monday, Dec. 7, from 5pm to 8pm, in the cafeteria of Saipan Southern High School in Koblerville.

On Wednesday, Dec. 9, the job fair will be in the cafeteria of ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School in Kagman, from 5pm to 8 pm.

The last job fair will be on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 5pm to 8pm, in Tanapag Elementary School's cafeteria in Tanapag.

Applications can be picked up at the Local Census Office or at Office of Personnel Management and completed in advance of the job fair.

Applicants are asked to bring the completed application to the job fair.

The 2010 CNMI Census office, which is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, is located on the International Terminal Loop next to the Saipan International Airport.

For more information about requirements and qualifications, call the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23, or log on to the CNMI Department of Commerce Web site and click on the Census 2010 link.

FITIAL

From Page 1

provisions of two stipulated orders dealing with the Clear Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said CUC's difficulty in achieving compliance after entry of the orders is especially "troubling."

CUC had said it has already made great strides but the U.S. EPA has yet to recognize these accomplishments.

In his 16-page executive order, Fitial said the shortage of manpower forced by legislation limiting skilled foreign workers has continued to place CUC operations at risk.

Fitial first declared a state of emergency for CUC in August 2008 and has since been extending the emergency declaration every month.

In March 2009, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson signed the stipulated order that sets requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet.

The order represents the agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency based on the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The stipulated order also provides a roadmap for providing improved water and sewer services in the CNMI.

New issues

Fitial, who is currently in Guam to attend the three-day 12th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, said in his Nov. 25 executive order that serious deficiencies in the waste oil handling system in Lower Base have come to light in the past month and are being addressed by CUC and EPA.

One deficiency is that the oily water separators are not functioning because of the excessive amount of oil—as opposed to water—entering the system.

As a result, oil was spilling to the ground rather than being separated and skimmed off properly.

Power Plant 1 has been sealed off to prevent any waste oil from leaving the plant and flowing into the oily water separators. Emergency measures have also been taken to store waste oil and to fabricate above ground tanks, among other things done by CUC.

Fitial said all of the additional work is expensive.

"Regardless of who does the work initially, CUC staff, EPA contractors, or a combination thereof, CUC requires skilled, trained workers for the cleanup. Failure to correct this situation could harm the nearby environment, CUC's ability to generate electricity properly, and the assurances given pursuant to Stipulated Order 2," the governor said.

CUC's Wastewater Division also had to respond to acid damage, "which has occurred over 30 years from anaerobic conditions in sewers."

"This has caused significant damage to cement and metal infrastructure, so that key pipe systems have collapsed," Fitial said.

The division also needs serviceable vehicles to move its workers to and from job sites. Presently, six vehicles are in such bad shape that they are dangerous.

Fitial said CUC's Water and Wastewater Divisions cannot carry out their missions without adequate staff that are essential to producing clean, safe water supplies and removal of storm water and sewage in a safe, timely manner.

As of November, at least six trained technicians will be required—three experienced Level 3 wastewater treatment operators, two Level 3 wastewater collections operators, and an instrumentation/low voltage controls specialist. Also required is an experienced Water/Wastewater Division operations manager.

The governor said CUC continues to pay for power, chlorine, laboratory testing costs, and repair of collapsing sewer lines. He added that CUC has hired a consulting team to assist it in achieving full cost recovery through the processes of the CNMI Public Utilities Commission.

Interim financial plan

Fitial also said that CUC has obligated itself to provide an updated, compliant interim financial plan and an organizational evaluation—both pursuant to Stipulated Order 1—to the U.S. District Court by Dec. 31, 2009.

He also said that CUC is still short-staffed, and needs an accounting assistant, an accounting specialist, and a chief financial officer.

"There is no indication that any of the above manpower situations will be resolved in the next month without continuing in effect this executive order and Directive No. 10," Fitial said.

Directive No. 10 allows the continued hiring of non-U.S. citizens at CUC, including engineers and professional employees in technical or trade areas.

Four NMC students awarded $8,800 scholarships

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The four recipients of this year's First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business* Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship grant pose with officials and representatives of the college and the companies during the awarding rites yesterday at the bank's Gualo Rai branch. The students are among the nine awardees who were selected from NMC, University of Guam, and Guam Community College.
MONETH G. DEPOSA

Four Northern Marianas College students joined five students in Guam who successfully got the First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business* Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship award for this year.

Ashley G. Sikayun, Frances T. Santos-Hofschneider, Ann Julia Padilla, and Roxanne A. Ferrer received yesterday the financial aid of $2,200 each from officials and representatives of the two companies.

The scholarship, which is open to both full-time and part-time students, is awarded based on merit, eligibility, a written essay, financial need, and a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The program provides student scholarships at three higher education institutions in the Marianas: The University of Guam, Guam Community College, and NMC.

The selection committee chose four students from UOG (Liza Nguyen, See L. Cabrera, Melisa Pisaro, and Leilani Manalo); one student from GCC (Chelsea Ulloa); and four from NMC.

Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president and region manager of Guam and the CNMI for First Hawaiian Bank, said they are pleased to present this year's scholarships to the nine students in recognition of their academic performance so they may continue their education to attain their career goals.

The presentation of grant awards to the NMC scholars was held yesterday at the bank's office in Gualo Rai in the presence of NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, NMC financial aid and program officer Daisy Manglona-Propst, FHB vice president and area manager on Saipan Juan Lizama, assistant vice president and branch manager in Oleai branch Victoria Concepcion, and group vice president of Transpacific International Inc., Stella T. Fong.

Sikayun said this program is a good opportunity for island students. "I encourage everybody to give it a shot. Apply for it and good things will happen," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sikayun is taking business courses at NMC. This is her first time to apply for the scholarship. She plans to use the money to pay for courses she will take in the Spring semester. A portion of the amount will also be used to pay for her online classes at Argosy University.

Santos-Hofschneider, an Elementary Education student at the college, said she will use the money for her classes at Dandan Elementary School, where she is a student teacher.

"I am a teacher and it's really expensive being a teacher. The pay [for teachers] is not enough. I have to help in my classroom needs," she said.

This is the second year that Hofschneider got the scholarship. "We are all struggling for funds and we just got to find any avenue to come up with the extra money for our goals," she said, describing the grant as an "encouragement" to students.

The scholarships funds were raised through the 2009 Businesswoman of the Year Gala held at the Hyatt Regency Guam on April 25.

The Business Woman of the Year scholarship program also has the support of the Guam Council of Women's Clubs, the Guam Women's Club, the Korean Women's Association on Guam, and Soroptimist International of the Marianas.

Free health screening for OFWs

The Philippine Consulate General has scheduled the fourth quarter "Free Health Screening for OFWs" this Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009, at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza Building. Registration is 7am to 8am and the actual conduct of the activity will start at 8am until noon.

This quarterly health screening program by the Philippine Consulate, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is done in cooperation with the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team and Hardt Eye Clinic.

The medical services include blood pressure, blood sugar, and vision check-ups. Those availing of blood sugar level check-up must refrain from taking solid and liquid food from midnight to actual testing.

In the last three quarters of this year, around 913 and 274 Filipinos have availed of blood pressure/blood sugar level and eye-vision checkups, and the average number of Filipinos who comes for checkups every quarter is placed at 395.

"We wish that this project would continue so that we can increase the level of awareness of diabetes prevention and control, hypertension prevention, eye/vision pressure correction among [overseas Filipino workers] and among ourselves as public servants," said the consulate in a statement yesterday. ***(PR)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Penny drive at Microl intersection
The Criminal Justice Student Organization of NMC will hold another penny drive along the Microl Corporation intersection from 3pm to 5:30pm this Friday. Also, the hot lunch sale at $5 will be Kilili Beach, and not at the 13th Fishermen pavilion as announced earlier. ***(PR)***

Local Census manager to discuss job fair
Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Census manager John Borja, on Dec. 5, 2009 Saturday, between 9:30am and 10:15am on Magic 100.3 FM. Borja will be discussing the job opportunities and job fair this weekend. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Repairs to Asan Beach parking lot
GUAM—War in the Pacific National Historical Park would like to inform the public that the Asan Beach Unit parking lot will undergo repairs during the month of December. The park will remain open to the public, but vehicular access to the Asan Point parking area will be restricted while crews remove and replace the asphalt pavement. For visitor safety, park officials ask that visitors observe construction signage warnings. ***(PR)***

Laser training exercises on FDM
SANTA RITA, Guam—The Air Force will conduct laser training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Dec. 4, from 7am to 1pm..

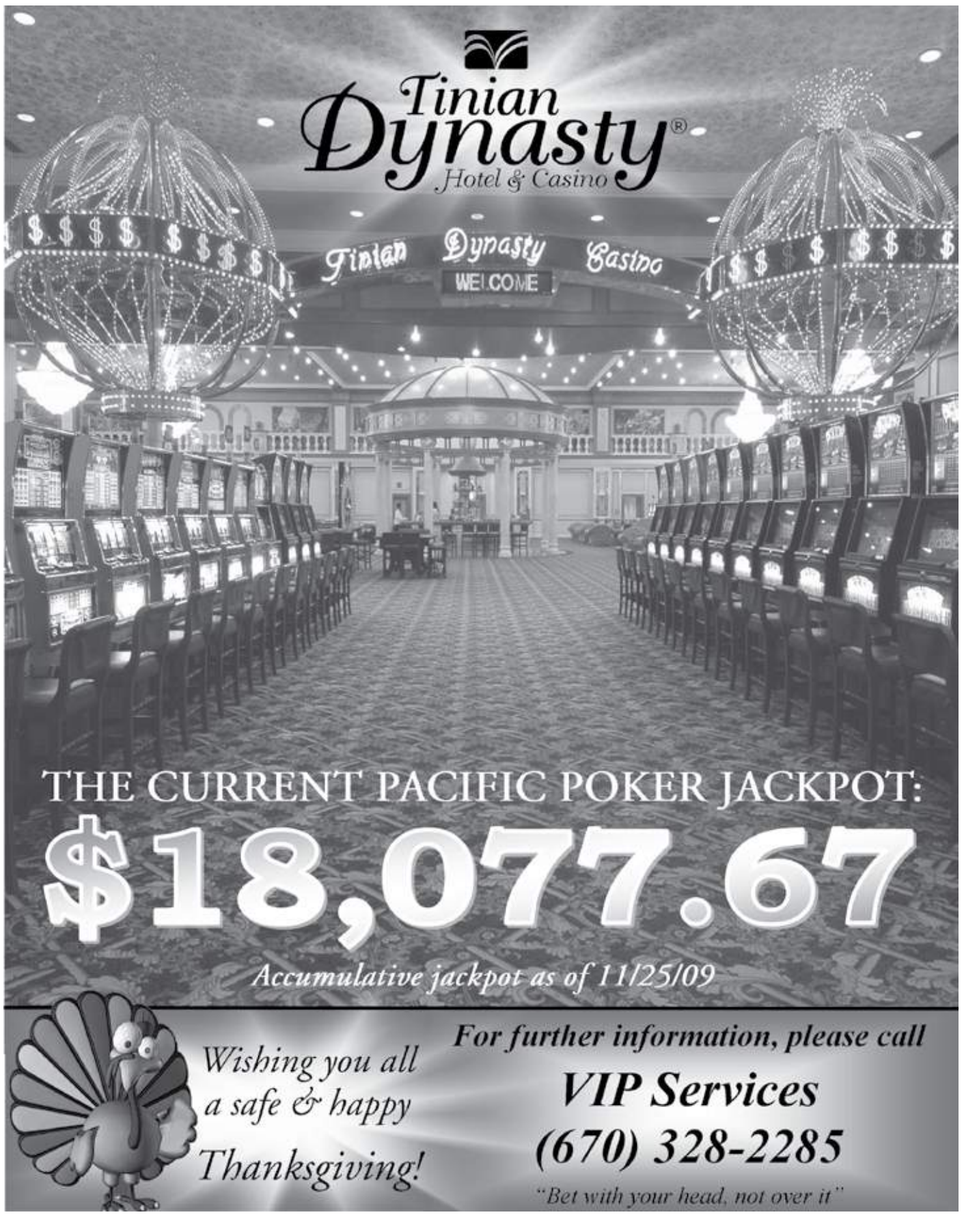
The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and date indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

KagES report cards distribution today
Students of the Kagman Elementary School will be dismissed early at 12pm today, Dec. 3, 2009, to make up for the 1st Quarter Report Cards distribution and teacher/parent conference that was cancelled on Nov. 20, 2009 due to PSS school lockdowns.

The 1st Quarter Report Cards will be distributed from 1:30pm to 4:30 pm in the child(ren)'s respective class room. Parents and guardians are highly encouraged to pick up your child(ren)'s report card and meet with their child(ren)'s teacher and discuss their academic progress. ***(PR)***

Monthly Beautify CNMI meeting today
The monthly Beautify CNMI meeting will be held today, Dec. 3, 2009, at 3:30pm at the Division of Environmental Quality on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. The winner of the bumper sticker and slogan contests will be announced at the meeting. The winner gets $150 and 50 stickers to share with friends and family.



On Sunday morning PDM Promoters will lead the 39th consecutive monthly cleanup of the Garapan Tourist District. Meet up at the American Memorial Park parking lot at 8am. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. ***(PR)***

Local Census office sets job fairs on Saipan
The local Census office is recruiting over 350 part-time workers and will be hosting a 2010 CNMI Census Job Fair on Saipan. The Job Fair will take place over four days in several villages.

Dates, times and locations to complete an application and be tested are as follows:

- Dec. 5, from 11am to 4pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe
- Dec. 7, from 5pm to 8pm, at Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria in Koblerville
- Dec. 9, from 5pm to 8pm, at Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High School Cafeteria in Kagman
- Dec. 10, from 5pm to 8pm, at Tanapag Elementary School Cafeteria in Tanapag

Applications can be picked up at the Local Census Office or at OPM and completed in advance of the job fair. Bring the completed application to the job fair. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm and the office is located on International Terminal Loop next to the Saipan International Airport. For more information, call the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23. ***(U.S. Census)***

DEQ Monthly Cleanup Brigade
The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at San Roque Beach in San Roque this Saturday, Dec, 5, 2009.

If you would like to volunteer, meet with the group on Saturday at 8am at the back of San Roque Elementary School. Volunteers will split into groups and go north or south, cleaning the beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Puengin Inetnon on Friday
Puengin Inetnon will be held again this Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Canton Restaurant, Lynn's BBQ, Fong's Bakery, Champ's Shave Ice, and Bali Fashion will be selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. The Library's Bookmobile will be available for the public to check out books. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun in Kagman. Interested vendors can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for applications. ***(PR)***

Kagman Saturday Flea Market
Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009 at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents and tables will be provided. Interested sellers can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for more info. ***(PR)***

NMI-US relation on Marianas Agupa
Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Vicente N. Santos, former vice chairman of the Northern Marianas Political Status Commission, on Dec. 5, 2009, Saturday, between 9:30am and 10:15am, on Magic 100.3 FM. Santos will be discussing key issues of the Covenant, the implication of the federal lawsuit that the CNMI lost in federal court, and the chances of renegotiating the relationship with United States. Simultaneous Internet broadcast via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales LIVE schedule
- Dec. 9, 2009 LIVE (Replays on Dec. 14 and 15), from 7pm to 8pm. Topic: Inspiration and Success from 2009 PSS Education Day Winners**.** Text 285-META (6382), call 287-4230, or e-mail johngonzales@pticom.com for your questions or comments. ***(PR)***

Motorists cautioned about cyclists
PIC would like to notify to all motorists on the morning of Dec. 5 to be particularly cautious from 6:30am to 9:30am on the northbound lane of Isa Drive near San Vicente, Papago, Kagman and Capital Hill where the bikers will be riding in packs. There will be cones to indicate the bike lane as well as DPS officers and official media vehicles. If motorists can circumvent these portions of Isa Drive during the above times, it will prevent heavy traffic congestion and enhance safety for all. ***(PR)***

Executives to discuss challenges, solutions to regional concerns

GUAM—Gov. Felix P. Camacho will host the chief leaders of Micronesia in the 12th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit beginning this morning and concluding Friday at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort.

Topics on the agenda for discussion include invasive species; regional recycling, transportation, tourism, and health; the Micronesian Challenge, in which the Micronesian islands share a commitment to conserve terrestrial and near-shore marine resources; renewable energy; and overall efforts for a sustainable future on the Micronesian islands.

Camacho

Fitial

Toribiong

Mori

"As chief executives of the islands in our region, we recognize that maintenance of healthy ecosystems and sustainable resource management are critical to the livelihoods of Pacific people," said Camacho. "And at the same time, our islands are extremely vulnerable when it comes to the effects of climate change and modern development. These biannual summits become increasingly crucial. They bring us together as island leaders to share similar challenges and find solutions that last well into the future."

Camacho will be joined at the summit by:

■ Benigno Fitial, governor of the CNMI. Fitial was set to leave yesterday for Guam to attend the summit;

■ Kenneth Kedi, minister of Transportation and Communication for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, representing RMI President Jurelang Zedkaia;

■ Johnson Toribiong, president of the Republic of Palau;

■ Emanuel Mori, president of the Federated States of Micronesia;

■ Wesley Simina, governor of Chuuk;

■ Sebastian Anefal, governor of Yap;

■ Robert Weilbacher, governor of Kosrae; and

■ John Ehsa, governor of Pohnpei.

The 11th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit was held in Majuro in the Marshall Islands in July this year. In that summit, leaders affirmed the need for Micronesia to speak with one voice on issues that directly impact its people and their children's future, and highlighted issues such as climate change and the Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future

The Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit was founded in 2004 by Camacho and former CNMI Governor Juan Babauta and calls for the establishment of the sub-regional meetings to establish closer ties, enhance existing ties, expand future discussions, and agree on beneficial initiatives for the entire Western Micronesian Region. ***(PR)***

Fed grants Web site to become more 'territory friendly'

People in the Northern Mariana Islands looking for federal grant opportunities will have a much easier time as a result of recent efforts by U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

Sablanhas received a commitment from the General Services Administration to upgrade the Web site containing the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance so that it returns more accurate information about which grants are available for the NMI.

"When my office has tried to search CFDA.gov for grant opportunities for the Northern Marianas, we got inconsistent and incomplete information," Sablan said. "The CFDA is the official government-wide compendium of federal programs, projects, services and activities that provide assistance or benefits to the American public. If it's not reliable—well, that's just unacceptable."

To fix the problem, Sablan contacted the General Services Administration, which administers the CFDA Web site, pointing out the problems.

"For example, when my office used the 'Advanced Search' feature and clicked the 'U.S. Territories' option under 'Beneficiary Eligibility,' we pulled up 196 results. But if we clicked on the 'U.S. Territories and possessions' option under 'Applicant Eligibility,' we pulled up 14 results. If we chose both the 'U.S. Territories' option for both search headings, CFDA pulled up six results."

The General Services Administration has agreed to fix the problems, working with over 60 federal agencies to improve data accuracy and ensure that people in the Northern Mariana Islands and other U.S. territories receive accurate information when searching CFDA.gov.

GSA acknowledged that they were not aware of the problem until Sablan brought the issue to their attention. A copy of the agency's letter is available at https://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B5yOYxtEBYVYzY5NjZmZjEtN2VkYi00Y2VhLThmMjMW-Y3NTQxMGNlNzRl&hl=en.

"Every year, millions of federal dollars are available to grant applicants from the Northern Marianas," said Sablan. "So, I appreciate GSA's efforts to upgrade the CFDA Web site so it can better serve our people."

Sablan said his office will make an announcement when all of the revisions of the CFDA Web site are complete and fully operational. ***(PR)***

Microl Parts Department
will be closed for inventory Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5, 2009.
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UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org

1st Quarterly Council on Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting

Attention General Public:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is hereby calling for the First Quarterly Meeting to take place on December 10, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saipan at the Saipan World Resort, Tapochau Room (2nd floor). The meeting is called based upon the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003).

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Establishment of Order
IV. Adoption of Agenda – December 10, 2009
V. Adoption of Minutes – September 22, 2009
VI. Adoption of By-Laws
VII. Committee Reports
  a. Call-A-Ride Committee Report-PSS-CDD MOA
  b. Fiscal Committee Report - DD Basic FY 2010 Budget
VIII. Executive Director's Report
IX. New Business
  a. CDD Quarterly Newsletter
  b. State Plan 2012
X. Open Discussion
XI. Next meeting
XII. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, 2nd Floor, Morgen Building
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel(670)664-8300 • Fax(670)664-8315
Website: www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 09, 2009, at 1:30 P.M. at the CRM conference room, 1st floor Morgen Building, Oleai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  a) Call to Order
  b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION
  1. Tinian Municipal Landfill – CRM Reference No. TMS-2009-X-080
  2. Marine Salvage Operation – CRM Reference No. SMS-2009-X-082
    a. Permit application/summary by CRMO
    b. Discussion of permit application by CRM Agencies/CRMO
    c. Permit status determination (CRM Agencies/CRM)

III. OTHER MATTERS
  1. Proposed three (3) storey duplex building, Gualo Rai

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. [Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Agency Officials may vote to meet in executive session.]

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director

Pal of ex-convict in alleged knife attack nabbed

Police arrested Tuesday night in Gualo Rai the companion of an ex-convict who was apprehended last week for allegedly attacking the parents of his spouse with a knife.

Jeronimo Sablan Ada, 32, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of disturbing the peace, assault, and assault and battery.

Associate Judge Perry Inos imposed a $25,000 cash bail for Ada's temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 9.

Police said that Ada called the spouse of ex-convict Melvin N. Basa on Monday and threatened her and her family that if he goes to jail, "you guys will see!"

Police said the victims feared for their lives after Ada's call.

Police arrested Basa on Monday on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

Police investigation showed that after,

Earlier reports said that Basa had an argument with his spouse during a drinking session at a relative's house. The spouse's mother later arrived to pick her up after she asked her mother to get her.

Later, as the mother was sitting in front of her house, Basa arrived aboard a car followed by a sports utility vehicle being driven by Ada.

Basa told his mother-in-law not to interfere as he tried to enter the house's door, looking for his spouse. Ada was shouting for Basa's spouse to come out.

Basa then grabbed a knife from his car that he used to threaten his mother-in-law. That's when Basa and his father-in-law struggled for the knife.

The father-in-law managed to free himself and enter the house. Basa, however, allegedly started stabbing the house's door with the knife.

Basa ran to the window, damaged the screen, and tried to force himself into the window. His father-in-law kept pushing him out.

Basa and Ada later fled on their vehicles. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

All referred immigration cases still under evaluation—Wagner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government has already referred at least four cases to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement but no case has been filed yet before the Saipan U.S. Immigration Court of the U.S. Department of Justice.

In an interview with Saipan Tribune, Clarence Wagner, Hawaii ICE chief counsel, said he is not sure of the specific number of cases the CNMI government has already referred to ICE, but that he is aware of at least four.

"We do not have a number that is being filed with the court. We are evaluating some cases at this point of time," Wagner said.

He said the ICE Detention and Removal Operations is now assessing the four cases as to what appropriate charges to file against the respondents.

"A person can be inadmissible or removable and that is the part that I am referring to, that we have to make a determination on what the appropriate charges are," he said.

The federalization of local immigration took effect on Nov. 28.

Wagner said their district office in Honolulu has three assistant chief counsels.

Wagner will represent DHS on any cases that are filed during his particular visit to the CNMI.

"There will be future hearings here and I will not be representing the department in other hearing. But for the ones that occur between now and Dec. 19, I will be representing," he said.

Wagner said they have not been able to make a decision whether or not two assistant chief counsels in Honolulu will actually be the ones coming to Saipan.

Wagner was present during the open house and orientation presentation given by Assistant Chief Judge Thomas Y.K. Fong for the Saipan Immigration Court yesterday morning. The court is located on the third floor at the Marina Heights II Building Suite 301 on Middle Road in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Wagner arrived on island Nov. 29. It is his third trip to Saipan.

"I love Saipan. This is the best weather. It's a nice place. Saipan is a great place. I am looking forward to my future trip to Saipan," he said.

Another NMC nursing grad passes NCLEX on first try

Another nursing graduate of the Northern Marianas College recently passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) on the first attempt.

Cheolsu (Charles) Shin, who took the exam on Nov. 19, graduated from NMC in May 2009. After graduating from Eucon International School in 2005, Shin started taking English classes at the college and eventually enrolled in the Nursing Program.

"I enrolled in the Nursing Program to gain skills that I believe would help me succeed in life," said Shin. "The Nursing Program's faculty and staff have been very supportive, passionate, and enthusiastic about ensuring that we students becoming successful nurses."

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all 50 United States and all U.S. territories to award nurse licenses. Licensed nurses may have their credentials endorsed by a state or territory's board upon meeting that board's requirements without having to retake the exam.

NMC

Cheolsu (Charles) Shin, who took the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses on Nov. 19, has passed the exam on his first try.

"The NCLEX was tough, and at first, I didn't think I had passed," said Shin, laughing.

Shin now joins three other recent NMC graduates who took and passed the NCLEX on the first attempt. Leo Valeros, Mary Rose Alvarez, and Ji Hyun Kim passed the exam in October of this year.

"The college uses the NCLEX as one of its key performance indicators to help us gauge teaching effectiveness and student achievement," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "For the past several years, Nursing graduates from the Northern Marianas College have consistently surpassed the national average in passage rates."

"The Nursing Program was quite challenging, especially my experiences in the clinic," added Shin. "Overall, I enjoyed attending NMC because it has exposed me to a variety of people and cultures."

"The college is extremely proud of Charles's achievement," said Fernandez. "His hard work and preparation for the test has paid off and now he is ready to move into successful careers in a field he is passionate about."

To fulfill military duty obligations, Shin now plans to return to South Korea where he aims to be a medic in the Korean army. ***(NMC)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-025

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 18, 2009 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 24, 2009 AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO derekchambers@deq.gov.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **DECEMBER 04, 2009 AT 1:00 P.M.** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. DEREK CHAMBERS** AT (670) 664-8540 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **DECEMBER 9, 2009**.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE IT'S USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-024

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 18, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ON-SITE WASTEWATER DATABASE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 24, 2009 AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO derekchambers@deq.gov.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **DECEMBER 04, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. DEREK CHAMBERS** AT (670) 664-8540 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **DECEMBER 9, 2009**.

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/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 3, 1998

Pay cuts loom large

The Legislature is set to look into an administration proposal that will reduce salaries of nearly 5,000 government employees by five to 10 percent in a frantic effort to stretch its dwindling budget and prevent huge shortfall in the next few months, officials said. Some members of both the Senate and House of Representatives met yesterday with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to discuss ways on how to widen the current austerity measures and boost the depleting local coffers amid the worsening economic crisis in the Northern Marianas. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said lawmakers will try to work out a mechanism to implement the pay cuts on all government personnel, including civil service and contractual employees.

CPA: Landing fees cut risks bond repayment

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has warned the Legislature against pushing the agency to implement a 50 percent reduction in landing fees saying it would jeopardize the payment of the $53 million revenue bonds. Amid the continuous plunge of the island's tourism economy as a result of Asia's financial crisis, the ports authority would have to increase landing fees to be able to meet debt service, operating expenses and complete capital improvements already in progress, said Carlos H. Salas, executive director of CPA.

Dec. 3, 1999

Continental apologizes

Admitting the exclusion of Northern Marianas in one of its makerting promotions was an "unintentional omission," an official of Continental Micronesia has downplayed the strong reaction by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio as he assuaged fears of its impact on the local tourism industry. Wally Dias, staff to the vice president for sales and promotion of the Guam-based carrier, said Continental continues to work with the Marianas Visitors Authority in attracting tourists to the island, contrary to reports that it is abandoning the CNMI. "This omission was a simple, unintentional oversight and in no way represents a change in Continental Micronesia's policy of strongly supporting CNMI tourism. Continental Micronesia apologizes for the unfortunate omission," he said in a statement.

NMHC offers help to FAS citizens

Due to increase in delinquency of housing payments by citizens of the Freely Associated States, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation has moved to assist them by carrying out programs that will eventually make them self-sufficient. According to Mary Lou S. Ada, executive director of NMHC, the housing office has seen a dramatic rise in the inability of FAS citizens to pay subsidized housing due to a recent federal court ruling which disqualified non-U.S. citizens from availing such benefit. NMHC used to own and operate 157 units under its Section 8 program in which families receive subsidized housing and utility allowances. In addition, vouchers and certificates are also paid out to 81 other low-income families renting in private housing.

Dec. 3, 2001

Visitor arrivals drop 48.4 percent

Visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas dropped by 48.4 percent in October compared with the same month last year, as the CNMI tourism industry reels from the adverse impacts of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the US. The Northern Marianas played host to 20,858 tourists in October 2001, almost 20,000 lower than the 40,423 visitors reported in the same month last year. Marianas Visitors Authority Managing Director Perry Tenorio said security worries caused by the crash attacks, coupled with economic uncertainties dampened visitor arrivals from Japan, Korean, Taiwan, and the United States.

UN contacts NMI about situation in Afghanistan

The United Nations' High Commission on Refugees has already made initial contact with the CNMI government Wednesday last week, with a proposal for a teleconference on Friday midnight. Although no confirmation could be obtained as of press time whether the teleconference pushed through, administration officials believe the matter for discussion may revolve around the situation in Afghanistan. According to an administration official, the UN High Commission on Refugees wanted to talk to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the CNMI Department of Labor and Immigration to discuss a matter pertaining to Afghanistan.

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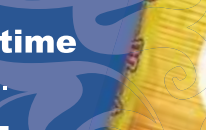

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 289

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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EDITORIAL

Paying for war

If President Obama proposes a troop increase for Afghanistan, one of the first objections raised will be that of cost. Liberal Democrats not usually known as deficit hawks have been decrying any escalation of the war as unaffordable. Rep. David R. Obey, D-Wis. recently claimed that the Afghan war would cost as much over the next decade as the House's health-care bill—about $900 billion—and proposed paying for it with an income tax surcharge.

We're ready to support a tax increase to pay for the war. But first it's worth correcting Mr. Obey's distortions. So far $60 billion is budgeted for Afghanistan in the next year. Mr. Obama will probably propose sending 30,000 more troops, and White House officials have been estimating that every 1,000 will cost $1 billion. But the Pentagon says the price will be half that much and that any troop escalation will occur gradually over the next year and a half.

So the actual cost of the troop increase next year will almost certainly be less than the $30 billion REDUCTION in spending that the administration expects this year in Iraq because of planned troop withdrawals. Even if all the fresh forces remain in Afghanistan for several years, by 2012 total war spending would be half the $180 billion of 2008. Mr. Obey's comparison to health care notwithstanding, no one is projecting a decade of unreduced Afghanistan costs; and entitlement programs, unlike war costs, never disappear.

But let's accept that Mr. Obey and other congressional leaders are serious about paying for the war. An income tax surcharge hardly seems like the right approach, since the House already has voted to tax high incomes to pay for health care, and raising the income taxes of middle-class families makes little sense when the nation is struggling to recover from a recession. But Congress could adopt the measure it took in 1940 to help pay for World War II, and again in 1951, when money was needed for the Korean War: an increase in the gasoline tax.

As we have pointed out before, the federal gas tax of 18.4 cents a gallon has not been raised since 1993 and is long overdue for an increase. Two federal commissions have proposed one in the past couple of years. In January the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission said its recommended hike of 10 cents a gallon for gasoline and 15 cents for diesel would raise $20 billion a year.

A 40-cent increase over five years, proposed by a second federal commission, would cover most or all of the war's costs and still leave gasoline prices well short of where they were in the summer of 2008. Those months showed that higher prices could do much to reduce U.S. carbon emissions—another national imperative. While most proponents of a higher gasoline tax want to use the money for highway infrastructure, or refund it to taxpayers, Congress could shift funding to those purposes once the U.S. mission in Afghanistan begins to wind down.

We don't expect a rush to embrace this idea: So far proponents of paying for the war in Afghanistan heavily overlap with those who want to end it. But if Mr. Obey—or Mr. Obama—believes that wars should be governed by the pay-as-you-go principle, a means to cover this one is readily available.

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Concluding unscientific postscript 4: PSS

Editor's Note: Jaime Vergara has been a regular contributor to the Opinion page of the Saipan Tribune *and this week's series will be his last this year.*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

A master's degree qualifies me to journey knowledgeably through the world's religions, so when I started substitute teaching at PSS, the principal in one of the schools asked if I would teach Social Studies for 6th graders. The curriculum focused on ancient civilizations. We had a fit. I guided 10 to 13 year olds sail up and down the Nile, bound into the fructified lands between the two rivers of the Fertile Crescent, walked through the agora of the city-states of Greece, and eavesdropped on the forum of the Roman empire, joined the eerie silence of the Indus and Ganges rivers, crossed the Himalayas to the flood plains of Yangtze and the Chiang Jiang, and traveled the Bering straits to the cordilleras of Norte and Sud America, and then, reconnecting the cousins of the European Neanderthals to the rest of the world.

As a previous mendicant in an experimental family religious order, I took the PSS entry level salary offer without batting an eye. Fair was what sustained, not what I thought I was market rate. But there was the matter of standard certification. I was lacking three requirements: familiarity with the local culture, CNMI history and classroom management.

I served on the board of the CNMI Council for the Humanities that run CNMI history sessions and is guardian to the humanities, particularly indigenous cultures. I taught cross-cultural training with the U.S. Peace Corps, and wrote a manual on training for USAID, after two decades of pedagogy in all kinds of community settings around the world. The school principal gave me the highest possible rating in the performance assessment test. No matter, HR required the courses. Being more functional than formal, I asked PSS for equivalency measures since I felt already qualified but I failed to get HR to budge. PSS finally did recognize my post-graduate degree, which raised my standing with the IRS.

Practicality reared its head and acceding to the fact that HR had power, and I was, at best, just gab-equipped, I matriculated and attended three certification courses, and also passed the Praxis tests. The promise was that when I got my paperwork in, the certification would be retroactive to the start of the contract cycle. In the meantime, SVES teachers sent Mr. V to the Teacher-of-the-Year ranks, requiring attendance at a Pacific-wide summer conference where PSS officials, seeing me in crutches after a recent medical procedure, assured me of my certification papers and salary adjustment.

The personnel action sheet finally came after some prodding, indicating the new level of certification effective the start of the contract cycle. Or so I thought. I expected that Christmas 2007 was going to be a little lighter on the plastic, given that my card already worked for CUC, Shell and PTI! I needed the salary adjustment. When it did not come, I finally had the temerity to inquire, and HR apologetically pointed out the typed-over date of effectivity adjusted to a BoE decision over the government budget crunch. Sadly, in HR's haste, and perhaps, not wanting to go around again for the three requisite signatures, the narrative portion in the sheet was not edited, or at least white-out! Relying on the narrative, I missed the effective date correction entirely.

Meanwhile, SVES decided to revert back to the self-contained teaching mode in 6th grade, it being the only departmentalized program in the whole system at that grade level. Having to prepare and teach all core courses—math, science, language, and social studies to one class—I reached my level of incompetence. Winging it while undergoing rehabilitative procedures in newly discovered cervical bone spurs on C6 to C3 was not an option. Hampered by the partial disability of body cramping and numbing of upper extremities, and frequent migraines, I was no longer doing full justice to the academic journey of my students. SVES was interviewing teachers at the time, and when an experienced teacher from Rota indicated interest, I decided to go on sick leave.

A happy ending was too much to wish for. I went on medical off-island without charges to GovCNMI insurance, but I was 40-hours short of sick leave. A colleague donated hers to assure a full paycheck. The donation paper was misplaced, and when I rectified it upon my return, I was told that there was a 30-day grace period for appeal, and mine was made on the 33rd day! Central and school pointed fingers; bottom line content stayed nil.

Kagman principal needed a Social Studies teacher. After learning how to effectively manage my ailment, I decided to finish off the year at the homesteads. Our CoE was pleased with the arrangement. Luck's smile was short-lived. My certification was for lower grades level (including Praxis); to teach the upper grades, I would have to be certified differently. (I could have applied as a remedial language teacher for the non-performing upper graders, but I was not that creative at the time.) Not qualified to retire, and only partially "disabled," I withdrew my RF contributions to keep body and soul on island till the end of the year. Thus, these reminiscences this week as the time ripens!

This is not a condemnation of PSS. In fact, SVES memories are robust and fulfilling. But as a colleagues blurted out: "If this can happen to you, one who has enough confidence and knowledge to walk your way through the system, how much more difficult it is for us timid ones who will just follow what comes dictated from Central?" Nor should this reflect on HR's integrity; they are dedicated and hard working. But if no one else smells the rotten fish in Denmark, then I'll park my cervical spurs elsewhere.

One regret: ACT, the Association of Commonwealth Teachers. MHS teacher James Yangetmai relaunched ACT to get it functional

See CONCLUDING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Merry Tossmas

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

When our kids complained that we celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day, where moms and dads get recognition and gifts, but there isn't a Children's Day, we told them that we do have such a day—it's called Christmas. In the 30 days between Thanksgiving and Christmas, many U.S. businesses will benefit from Americans spending more of their discretionary income on Christmas gifts than they do in the other 335 days of the year combined. However, more and more retailers are profiting from the season without giving the reason for the celebration. In order to be more inclusive of other religions that have observances in December, they elect to exclude Christ from the holy-day celebration.

Religion in general has been harshly criticized by the politically correct hordes that would like to sway the masses toward a godless society. This is evident in companies that creep away from religion during the central celebration of Christianity. To their credit, the American Family Association has been using a "naughty and nice" list for several years based on how the top retailers recognize the word "Christmas" in their advertising. Instead, these naughty retailers use terms such as Season's Greetings, Happy Holidays, Merry Xmas, and Tis' the Season as they roll out their merchandise at super savings to encourage excessive consumerism, but they conveniently expunge the word "Christmas."

The AFA breaks down their list into three categories: companies *for* Christmas, companies *marginalizing* Christmas, and companies *against* Christmas. AFA looks at four areas to determine if a company was "Christmas-friendly" in their print media, broadcast media, Web site and/or personal visits to the store. If a company ad has references to goods associated with Christmas such as trees, wreaths and lights, it was considered as an attempt to reach Christmas shoppers. If the company did not use the word "Christmas," then they are censoring Christmas.

Stuart Shepherd from *Spotlight* can be seen on YouTube explaining how he came up with a special holiday just for retailers who want you to celebrate this non-specified holiday in December by purchasing their merchandise. When a company on the AFA naughty list sends a catalog to Shepherd asking him to buy their wares, he simply says "Merry Tossmas" to them while he tosses their catalog into the trash. A variation of the term for those who speak Spanish is "Feliz Navi-toss." Shepherd believes the best way to "spank" those naughty retailers that diss the majority of consumers who call themselves Christians is to do it by not giving them your hard-earned dollars.

The AFA's standards are only applied to large, national retailers, but you could do your own evaluation by using a simple test to see if local merchants are Christmas-challenged. Give them a score of 1 if they appear to be *against* Christmas, a 2 if they *marginalize* Christmas, and a 3 if you feel the store is *for* Christmas. You can apply the rating to three key areas: their print and broadcast advertising and promotions, exterior and interior decorations, and the demeanor and communication of their staff.

Look at a retailer's catalogs, fliers, Web site, and promotional materials. If they encourage Christmas shopping for items associated with Christmas, without using the word, then give them a score of 1. Give them a 2 if they mention Christmas sparingly in their promotional materials, and they earn a 3 if they unabashedly use the word Christmas in their promotions.

Next, take a look at the decorations and signage outside their establishment. When you enter, do they have Christmas-themed music or decorations that hint at Christmas, but don't have the word Christmas anywhere outside or inside their building? Score them from 1 to 3 in this area.

Lastly, how do the employees greet you or what do they say when you leave. Do they say "Merry Christmas" or do they mention Christmas at all? Would you even know it is Christmas just from the general behavior, dress, and communication of the staff? Score them from 1 to 3 in this area, and then tally your scores.

If a store earns between 7 and 9, you can consider it Christmas-friendly. If their score is between 6 and 8, they *marginalize* Christmas. A score between 3 and 5 means they are *against* Christmas, but they probably still want you to spend your money buying Christmas gifts at their establishment. As you leave their store and they tell you Happy Holidays, you can simply tell them "Merry Tossmas."

Letters to the Editor

Re: Alex Sablan's take on Article XII

Your viewpoint that land and culture aren't related is shortsighted and predicated strictly on private landownership and the right to dispose of it the way you see fit. I couldn't agree more with such right, but Article XII must be viewed beyond the physical aspect of land. It is upon these sacred ancestral lands that our forefathers established our cultures over 4,000 years ago. It is a mode of life—communal sharing—that served as a vehicle in the establishment of a harmonious way of life and the perpetuation of the essence of our people since time immemorial.

Therefore, I would politely take exception to your view that land and culture have nothing to do with each other. Culture is identical to a people or nation. "It is the link that makes possible, on a high level, the rich social life that constitutes a people, their customs, styles, tastes, festivals, rituals, gods—all that binds individuals to a group with roots, a community in which they think and will generally, with the people a moral unity and the individual united with himself. It is everything that is uplifting and edifying as opposed to commerce."

There's the foundation of inseparability between land, sea and our people. The identity of the indigenous people is inherent in their traditional use, management and disposition of land, genealogy, interrelatedness and inseparability to its constituent parts. Like a fish, there's the tail that represents the past, belly the present, and the head the future. Each constituent part can't be severed from the other. It's the whole fish!

It's important to note that the invasion of paternalistic governments nearly five centuries ago has forcibly changed the indigenous people's traditional lifestyle. Our ancestors were forced to assimilate into mainstream cultures of the predominant authority from without. Most indigenous people were forced to acquiesce or render ill-informed consent, brutal and senseless changes to their demise. Or even to the extent where we too adopt and propagate "Their Ways" over "Our Ways." Need we succumb to shameful mea culpa in perpetuity? Don't we have the dignity and pride as permanent hosts of these isles to begin restoring and moving away from shameful servile submission? Must we negate Our Ways for someone else's? Isn't it time to regain what's rightfully ours?

It is obvious that these predominant cultures and the brutal though forced impositions they have inflicted against our indigenous people have resulted in the colonization, degradation, dispossession, alienation, and marginalization of the indigenous people. In short, it is really up to us to work in favor of recapturing, re-nurturing and re-strengthening what is ours and convey them to our children. We carry a torch that is difficult to keep beaming brightly amidst the heavy indoctrination that theirs is the way over ours. I understand the challenges before us in an effort to regain the dignity that rightfully belongs to the indigenous people. It's a journey of a thousand miles and we have already taken the first step, the goal being a constructive review of difficult issues under the current provision to make an inclusive constitutional genealogical policy for all NMI descent. We shall overcome!

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Another ploy

The online petition has reached over 1,550 signatures and written signatures are now over 700. The letters to the nonprofits and other organizations are going out this Friday. Unfortunately, I was informed that "volunteer" Deanne Siemer has requested that guest worker leaders ask their followers not to sign the petition. She reportedly met with about 20 guest workers, selected leaders and an attorney at McDonald's Saturday evening. She allegedly stated that if they would ask their followers to keep quiet, not write letters to the editor, and not comment on DOL authority or umbrella permits, then in exchange she would continue her fight for "their cause," which is to have a pathway to citizenship.

Why would any foreign worker believe that Siemer is actually fighting for them? Why would she tell people not to sign a petition requesting permanent status if she really was going to miraculously start a campaign for permanent status?

Siemer has opposed federalization, criticized and maligned those who have supported it, opposed federal status for nonresidents, and is presently working to maintain the broken CNMI system—and now she wants the very people she has worked to keep disenfranchised and oppressed to believe that she is actually trying to help them. And only if they "be quiet!"

If the reports are true, then it is truly remarkable that an attorney would have the audacity to tell worker leaders to stifle the first amendment rights of their fellow workers.

This appears to be another ploy to keep everything hushed while she works with her husband and Jenner and Block on the court case for Fitial. It was reported that she claimed that she was leaving for DC right away to have an "insertion written into the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act pending before Congress to have permanent status given to the guest workers." That certainly would be welcome, if it were true, since we already submitted over 600 letters and a previous petition requesting this also. I would like to see a copy of such a request! And I might find it more believable if Siemer would also release information from LIDS that could provide statistics and data for the DOI recommendation to be made by May 2010 concerning status for the foreign workers. She has so far refused to provide the requested information.

If Siemer were seriously helping to get status for the guest workers then she would urge Governor Fitial to recommend to the Department of Interior to urge the U.S. Congress to pass legislation immediately requesting permanent status for the nonresidents of the CNMI.

It was also reported that at the meeting she claimed that in the next two weeks she would have an amendment enacted to P.L. 15-108 which would add a new category: service provider. This new category of work permit would be available to any worker whose primary employer provided only 32 hours or less of work. This new category would allow holders to get at will work with anyone, provided however, the worker would be responsible for taxes, insurance, medical etc.

I challenge Siemer to tell the public if these reports are true or not.

DOL's stance on umbrella permits for the overstayers is a sign that there is conflict within the Fitial Administration.

Kaipat could have made a statement immediately when Attorney General Buckingham's delegation of authority was released, but she waited until after the permits were issued to make waves. Also strange is the fact that Siemer was reportedly telling people about Labor's intentions to issue umbrella permits to overstayers weeks before AG Buckingham issued the delegation of authority to make the permits legitimate. So it seems rather ludicrous for the Deputy Secretary to pretend now that she was unaware and not consulted. Unless, of course, Siemer chose to keep her in the dark.

Does DOL have the authority to revoke a permit that was issued under the authority of the AG? Would they have the authority to revoke umbrella permits issued by the Department of Commerce to foreign investors or foreign students? I also do not believe that the federal government is going to deport anyone with umbrella permits, including those on the overstayers lists. The overstayers lists contain names of guest workers with pending labor and criminal cases and those waiting to be paid by their former cheating employers.

I urge all of the guest workers to follow the federal ombudsman's advice to stay calm while we wait for the final rules to be issued. I also urge all foreign workers and nonresidents to continue to speak out, sign the petition, write letters, voice their opinions on the umbrella permits and on the treatment of overstayers, and voice any opinion that they may have on DOL authority.

Wendy Doromal
Orlando, Florida

CONCLUDING

From Page 10

again so that matters like the above could be dealt with corporately, but we got caught in the internecine squabble of personalities and other conflicts (not of our own doing, by my recollection, but fanned by some sectors as a matter of habit) seemingly inherent in the Association. Thunderbolts from Mt. Olympus' self-acclaimed statesman in Kagman and Keiper's occasional racist tantrums are cases in point, that even mighty Miller's recent hands on the helm could not revive the ACT engine from sputtering.

I've advocated a fourth R to education—reflection. Nothing less than the reinvention of the image of the *taotao* Marianas would get education relevant to the needs of our time. I've expounded on that elsewhere, and will continue to do so where there is an ear for the lending. For now, blessed be PSS, and its four plus-one strategies. May the parents and community be with you, for no doubt, the Force is with you.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲89 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲68 ▼54
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲35 ▼28
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲55 ▼55
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲82 ▼71
London	Showers	▲46 ▼36
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼48
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▼72
Melbourne	Showers	▲83 ▼51
Miami	Thunder Storms	▲82 ▼68
New York	Showers	▲61 ▼40
Osaka	Rain	▲57 ▼43
Paris	Rain	▲47 ▼39
Pusan	Cloudy	▲54 ▼38
Rome	Showers	▲55 ▼52
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲47 ▼27
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼44
Seoul	Ice	▲46 ▼22
Tokyo	Rain	▲57 ▼42
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲58 ▼36

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:58 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Nida (26W) is centered northwest of Guam near 21N137E and is moving northwest at 8 mph with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 130 miles of the center. For more information on Typhoon Nida, see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A monsoon trough extends northeastward from 8N130E north of Yap and Koror through a circulation south of Guam near 12N144E continuing southeastward to beyond 3N180. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation are located over the Marianas between 10N and 16N from 141E to 155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also found between the equator and 1N from 130E to 133E from 137E to 147E from 161E to 164E and between the equator and 2N from 174E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Thursday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Thursday	6:39 AM	7:08 PM
Friday	7:44 AM	8:11 PM
Saturday	8:49 AM	9:09 PM
Sunday	9:52 AM	10:02 PM
Monday	10:51 AM	10:50 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	13:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 4,776.70 Up 43.60 (+0.92%)			
HONG KONG 22,396.27 Up 283.12 (+1.28%)	JAKARTA 2,471.10 Up 18.60 (+0.76%)		
TOKYO 9,608.94 Up 36.74 (+0.38%)	K. LUMPUR 1,269.29 Up 2.58 (+0.20%)		
MANILA 3,119.96 Up 22.04 (+0.71%)	SINGAPORE 2,794.42 Up 23.47 (+0.85%)		
SEOUL 1,591.63 Up 21.91 (+1.40%)	BANGKOK 708.20 Down 1.81 (-0.25%)		

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 10,471.58 +1.23%

S&P 1,108.86 +1.21%

NASDAQ 2,175.81 +1.46%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0779
British Pound	0.6025
Canadian Dollar	1.0445
Chinese Yuan	6.8267
Euro	0.6626
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7502
Indian Rupee	46.2750
Indonesian Rupiah	9,435.0000
Japanese Yen	87.0250
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3765
New Zealand Dollar	1.3738
Philippine Peso	46.5650
Singapore Dollar	1.3806
South Korean Won	1,155.4000
Swiss Franc	0.9990
Taiwan Dollar	32.1405
Thailand Baht	33.1550

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Henderson exits as GM board seeks faster change

DETROIT (AP)—The leader of the new General Motors was done in by an old problem at the nation's largest car maker: Change wasn't happening fast enough.

GM's board and CEO Fritz Henderson parted ways Tuesday, the board upset that the automaker's turnaround wasn't moving more swiftly and Henderson frustrated with second-guessing, two people close to the former CEO said.

Board Chairman Ed Whitacre Jr., the former head of AT&T Inc., will take over as CEO while a global search is conducted.

It was unclear whether Henderson or the board moved first in the surprise resignation, which came just hours before Henderson was to be the high-profile keynote speaker at the Los Angeles Auto Show. At a hastily called news conference at General Motors Co.'s downtown Detroit headquarters, Whitacre would not answer questions, but said the board and Henderson agreed that he should step down.

Whitacre thanked Henderson, 51, a lifelong GM employee, for his leadership and said the company is on the right path toward offering high-quality cars and trucks worldwide.

AP

General Motors' Chairman Ed Whitacre Jr. announces that CEO Frederick "Fritz" Henderson has resigned during a news conference in Detroit, Tuesday, Dec. 1. 2009. Whitacre will serve as interim CEO.

"We now need to accelerate our progress toward that goal," the 68-year-old Whitacre said in a brief appearance.

Both men were chosen for their jobs by the U.S. government, which owns more than 60 percent of the Detroit automaker in exchange for giving it billions in loans. But Henderson is a GM insider, while Whitacre is an outsider to the whole industry.

An Obama administration official said Tuesday in a statement that "this decision was made by the Board of Directors alone. The Administration was not involved in the decision."

"I don't think this has much to do with Fritz Henderson's performance, I think it's just the wrong time to be a GM lifer," said Logan Robinson, a former Chrysler attorney and professor of corporate governance at University of Detroit Mercy.

Henderson, who rose through GM's ranks over a 25-year career, took over in March after the government forced out former CEO Rick Wagoner. A few months later, GM entered bankruptcy protection and Henderson led the company through a painful government-led and court-supervised reorganization. The company emerged from court protection in just 40 days cleansed of massive debt and burdensome contracts that would have sunk it without roughly $52 billion in federal loans.

The people close to Henderson, who asked not to be identified because Henderson has not spoken, said he was frustrated from the beginning by the board and government push for faster change and other questions about his decisions.

Henderson, one of the people said, was confident that the company was making progress and thought he deserved more autonomy. In the past few months GM has stabilized its U.S. market share at around 20 percent and has shown some monthly sales increases in the U.S. and Asia.

Economic reports signal modest growth ahead

NEW YORK (AP)—The economic recovery seems on track for slow but steady gains after new reports Tuesday showed growth in manufacturing activity, construction spending and contracts to buy homes.

The batch of new economic data lifted spirits on Wall Street. But analysts cautioned that the economy won't come roaring back from the worst recession in seven decades. Some say the rebound's modest growth could falter next year as unemployment keeps rising.

"We have a recovery, but it is going to be a slow one," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York. "People are still reluctant to add workers."

In one hopeful sign, the Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing index showed growth in November for a fourth straight month. The reading of 53.6 was slightly lower than October's 55.7. But any reading above 50 indicates growth.

Economists were especially encouraged that new orders—a gauge of future production—jumped last month. Of the 17 industries surveyed, 13 reported higher orders.

A second report on construction spending from the Commerce Department also signaled growth, with the first overall increase in six months. The increase was slight—just 0.04 percent. But it appeared to indicate that the construction sector is stabilizing.

The October rebound was fueled by a 4.4 percent surge in residential construction, the largest gain in more than a decade. Builders rushing to begin work before the expiration of a tax credit for first-time home buyers propelled the increase. The credit has since been extended and expanded to some existing home owners.

Northrop may drop out of tanker competition

By JOSHUA FREED
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Northrop Grumman Corp. said on Tuesday it won't bid on a major contract to make a new Air Force tanker plane unless the Defense Department changes the rules.

Northrop has been tussling for years with Boeing Co. over a contract worth at least $35 billion to build 179 new Air Force tankers.

The Pentagon had circulated a draft of its request for proposals. Northrop said asked for revisions on Nov. 4. But the Pentagon said the revisions would not be included, according to a letter sent Tuesday from Wes Bush, Northrop's president and chief operating officer, to Ashton B. Carter, undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

Without those changes, Northrop Grumman "cannot submit a bid" for the tanker program, Bush wrote.

The Pentagon's preliminary request includes what Los Angeles-based Northrop called a "clear preference" for a smaller plane with limited flexibility. Critics have said the request appeared tailored for Boeing, which is based in Chicago.

The initial Pentagon request "places contractual and financial burdens on the company that we simply cannot accept," Bush wrote.

US November auto sales struggle to gain ground

DETROIT (AP)—U.S. auto sales struggled to gain ground in November and big improvements aren't expected until people stop worrying about losing their jobs.

Sales were flat compared to last November, according to Autodata Corp. Even higher incentives couldn't push the needle much beyond the dismal lows seen a year ago, when a credit freeze and the financial meltdown kept car buyers at home.

Fuel-efficient cars showed continued strength, as did crossovers, which are as roomy as SUVs but are built on lower car frames, bolstering fuel economy. Truck sales were again weak.

Last month's big winner was South Korea's Hyundai, which posted double-digit sales growth. Sales at the top three sellers in the U.S.—General Motors, Ford and Toyota—held steady, while Chrysler struggled for yet another month.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GE returns to roots as it looks to spin off NBC

WASHINGTON (AP)—For General Electric Co., the NBC entertainment division was always an odd fit. One of the nation's iconic industrial businesses, GE has spent 23 years making sitcoms and blockbuster movies along with jet engines, dishwashers and light bulbs. The pairing of glitzy entertainment and gritty manufacturing has often confounded investors and even has been ruthlessly satirized by NBC's own show "30 Rock," in which a fictional network executive also heads a division that programs microwave ovens. It's a marriage that will likely soon end. As GE prepares for an expected $30 billion deal that will give control of NBC to cable TV operator Comcast Corp., the conglomerate is shifting its focus back to its industrial divisions.

Judge gives Tribune more time for bankruptcy plan

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—A Delaware bankruptcy judge on Tuesday granted the Tribune Co. more time to submit a Chapter 11 reorganization plan. Judge Kevin Carey agreed to extend the period under which Tribune has exclusive rights to file a plan to Feb. 28, with the possibility of a further extension after a mid-February hearing. Tribune said in its request for an extension that many of the elements of a reorganization plan are in place, but that it needs more time to review issues surrounding the leveraged buyout that took the company private in 2007. The $8.2 billion buyout, which saddled Tribune with massive debt and which some Tribune creditors point to as the root cause of its bankruptcy, is being reviewed by the company, its creditors committee and other parties.

Stocks climb as falling dollar boosts commodities

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market is picking up where it left off before its scare over debt problems in Dubai. Major stock indicators rose more than 1 percent Tuesday, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which added 126 points and traded above 10,500 for the first time since October of last year. A weaker dollar again boosted stocks, a pattern that has played out for months. The cheaper U.S. currency drove up commodities prices and lifted the shares of energy and materials companies that produce them. Analysts said a mostly upbeat array of economic reports and easing worries about the fallout from debt struggles in Dubai gave investors who jumped out of the market last week reason to return.

Nation

Tempers rise as Senate moves toward health vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Republican senator asserted Tuesday during a rancorous floor debate that President Barack Obama's health care overhaul will shorten the lives of America's seniors by cutting Medicare.

"I have a message for you: You're going to die sooner," said Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., an obstetrician-turned-lawmaker.

A senior Democrat decried such comments as scare tactics designed to kill legislation that he said would improve some benefits for seniors. At times, the debate recalled the raw charges and countercharges of the summer's town hall meetings.

Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., defended the health care legislation, saying it would make Medicare a smarter buyer and improve prescription coverage and preventive benefits for seniors.

"I hate to say it ... these are scare tactics," Baucus said. "Sometimes you've got to call a spade a spade." The Senate was debating an amendment by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., that would strip from the bill more than $400 billion in Medicare cuts to home health providers, hospitals, hospices and others.

Polls show that seniors are concerned that expanding coverage for the uninsured will come at their expense. Earlier this year, former GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin warned of "death panels" that would deny coverage to frail seniors—a charge that was widely debunked. Medicare spending actually would keep growing under the Democrats' legislation, albeit at a slower rate.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. answers question for members of the media on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009.

AP

Despite the partisan sparring over Medicare, the first health care amendment offered was bipartisan, a measure to increase preventive care for women co-sponsored by Sens. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., and Olympia Snowe, R-Maine. Snowe was the only Senate Republican to vote in favor of Democrats' health care legislation in committee.

Troops, families mixed over Obama's Afghan surge

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. (AP)—Battle-weary troops and their families braced for a wrenching round of new deployments to Afghanistan announced Tuesday by the president, but many said they support the surge as long as it helps to end the eight-year-old conflict.

As President Barack Obama outlined his plan to send 30,000 extra troops to Afghanistan—while pledging to start bringing them home in 2011—soldiers, Marines and their families interviewed by The Associated Press felt a tangle of fresh concerns and renewed hopes. Some took in the televised announcement as they played darts in a barroom near their base, while others watched from their living rooms.

"All I ask that man to do, if he is going to send them over there, is not send them over in vain," said 57-year-old Bill Thomas of Jacksonville, N.C., who watched Obama's televised speech in his living room, where photos of his three sons in uniform hang over the TV.

One of his sons, 23-year-old Cpl. Michael Thomas, is a Marine based at neighboring Camp Lejeune. He'll deploy next year to Afghanistan.

An ex-Marine himself, Thomas said he supports Obama's surge strategy. But he shook his head when the president announced a 2011 transition date to begin pulling out troops.

"If I were the enemy, I would hang back until 2011," Thomas said. "We have to make sure that we are going go stay until the job is done. It ain't going to be as easy as he thinks it is."

Military officials say the Army brigades most likely to be sent as part of the surge will come from Fort Drum in New York and Fort Campbell in Kentucky. Marines, who will be the vanguard, will most likely come primarily from Camp Lejeune.

As the wife of a Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune, where some of the first surge units could deploy by Christmas, Jamie Copeland says she wished the war "would be over and done with."

Lawyer: Army wants mental exam for Fort Hood suspect

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—The military plans a mental evaluation to determine whether the Army psychiatrist charged with killing 13 people at Fort Hood knew his alleged actions were wrong and whether he's competent to stand trial, his civilian attorney said Tuesday.

Hasan

Attorney John Galligan said he received notice Tuesday night from Maj. Nidal Hasan's captain that the military likely will issue a "mental responsibility exam" order Wednesday. The notice did not indicate when or where the exam, which is done by what the military calls a sanity board, will take place, Galligan said.

Hasan has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder in the Nov. 5 shooting spree on the Texas post, which left more than two dozen others wounded. Authorities have not said whether they will seek the death penalty.

"Given the magnitude and seriousness of the crimes alleged ... such alleged conduct makes me believe ... that the accused lacks mental responsibility and capacity," Capt. J. Huber wrote in the notice sent to Galligan.

Such an evaluation aims to ascertain whether a suspect had mental responsibility at the time of a crime, which means determining whether a mental illness prevented a suspect from knowing that what he was doing was wrong, according to military law. The exam also would determine if Hasan is competent to stand trial, Galligan said.

The board's determination could affect the charges, defense strategy and how the case proceeds, he said.

But Galligan said the exam is premature because Hasan remains in intensive care at a San Antonio military hospital, recovering from gunshot wounds that left him paralyzed. Military officials also have said Hasan could face other charges, Galligan said.

Seattle police kill suspect in officer slayings

SEATTLE (AP)—The man suspected of gunning down four police officers in a suburban coffee shop was shot and killed by a lone patrolman investigating a stolen car early Tuesday. Four people were arrested for allegedly helping the suspect elude authorities during a massive two-day manhunt.

Maurice Clemmons was carrying a handgun he took from one of the dead officers when a Seattle policeman recognized him near a stolen car in a working-class south Seattle neighborhood about 2:45 a.m., Assistant Police Chief Jim Pugel said.

The vehicle was running but unoccupied when the officer pulled up, radioed in the license plate number and realized the car was stolen, Pugel said.

The officer saw something moving, got out of his car, saw Clemmons and ordered him to show his hands and stop.

"He wouldn't stop," Pugel said. "The officer fired several rounds."

Clemmons also had sustained a serious gunshot wound from one of the four officers killed in the coffee-shop shooting.

Police planned to arrest more people who helped Clemmons.

"We expect to have maybe six or seven people in custody by the day's end," said Ed Troyer, a spokesman for the Pierce County sheriff. "Some are friends, some are acquaintances, some are partners in crime, some are relatives. Now they're all partners in crime."

Three people were booked into the Pierce County Jail on Monday and early Tuesday for investigation of rendering criminal assistance on four counts of first-degree murder. They are Ricky Hinton, Eddie Lee Davis and Douglas Edward Davis. Troyer said a getaway driver also was arrested. That person's identity wasn't immediately known.

On Monday, officers detained a sister of Clemmons who they think treated the suspect's gunshot wound.

"We believe she drove him up to Seattle and bandaged him up," Troyer said.

Authorities say Clemmons, 37, singled out the Lakewood officers and spared employees and other customers at the coffee shop Sunday morning in Parkland, a Tacoma suburb about 35 miles south of Seattle. He then fled, but not before one of the dying officers apparently shot him in the torso.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ohio man accused of living with bodies indicted

CLEVELAND (AP)—A registered sex offender attacked 14 women and killed 11 of them, leaving their remains in and around his home, a prosecutor said Tuesday in announcing a grand jury indictment against the suspected serial killer. Anthony Sowell, 50, is indicted on murder charges in the deaths of 11 women, plus dozens of other counts, including kidnapping, abuse of a corpse, attempted murder, assault and rape. "The Cuyahoga County grand jury has returned an indictment against this monster for brutalizing three women, two of whom were raped, and murdering 11 more," said County Prosecutor Bill Mason, speaking at courthouse news conference. He expects to seek the death penalty. Sowell's attorney in a rape case incorporated in the indictment, Brian McGraw, did not immediately return a message left by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Most states have not adopted sex offender rules

ATLANTA (AP)—More than three years after Congress ordered stepped-up monitoring of sex offenders, only one state has adopted the government's strict new requirements, and some others are weighing whether to ignore the law and just pay a penalty. So far, Ohio is the lone state to meet the new federal standards. Elsewhere, efforts have been hampered by high costs and legal challenges from the nation's 686,000 registered sex offenders. Advocates worry that the delays are putting public safety at risk. "This means more of the same—that we're losing sex offenders when they cross state lines and disappear," said Erin Runnion, who lobbied for the law after her 5-year-old daughter, Samantha, was kidnapped and killed in 2002.

Dying man robbed in Philadelphia ER waiting room

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A school counselor suffering an apparent heart attack died in a Philadelphia emergency room after waiting nearly 80 minutes for help—and a trio of homeless drug addicts nearby stole his watch instead of seeking aid, police said. Joaquin Rivera, 63, died before seeing a triage nurse at Atria Health's Frankford Campus over the weekend, police said. Rivera, a musician and activist in the city's Latino community, had spent more than 30 years working as a bilingual counselor at an inner-city high school. "We're all destroyed. A guy like that, for him to leave us the way that he did—and with what happened to him—everybody's destroyed," said Jesse Bermudez, a friend and fellow musician. Rivera's cruel end was captured on security videotape, much like the June 2008 death of Esmin Green, who died on a hospital floor as staffers at Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn ignored her.

Asia

Marcos joins Pacquiao, Arroyo in run for Congress

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos filed her candidacy for next year's congressional elections, joining the country's boxing champion and the outgoing president in the star-studded race for the lower house.

Strongman Ferdinand Marcos's flamboyant 80-year-old widow, who has successfully fought off more than 900 civil and criminal cases against her, dispatched a lawyer shortly before midnight Tuesday to file her nomination papers in Illocos Norte, her husband's northern stronghold where she is popular.

Tuesday was the last day for nominations for the May 2010 national elections.

Other top candidates for Congress include Manny Pacquiao, who last month won his seventh world boxing title in as many weight classes.

Pacquiao ran unsuccessfully in 2007 for a congressional seat in southern General Santos city, where he began his career. This time he is running in Alabel township in neighboring Sarangani province.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will become the first Philippine president to run for a lower house seat after stepping down. Barred by the constitution from seeking a second term, Arroyo filed her candidacy Tuesday for the 268-member House of Representatives in her home province of Pampanga.

Arroyo, 62, has denied allegations of vote fraud and corruption, and has survived four impeachment bids and four attempted power grabs by disenchanted troops who accused her of mismanaging the country.

Opinion polls have consistently found her to be the least popular president since Marcos, who was ousted in 1986 and sent into U.S. exile with his wife and children.

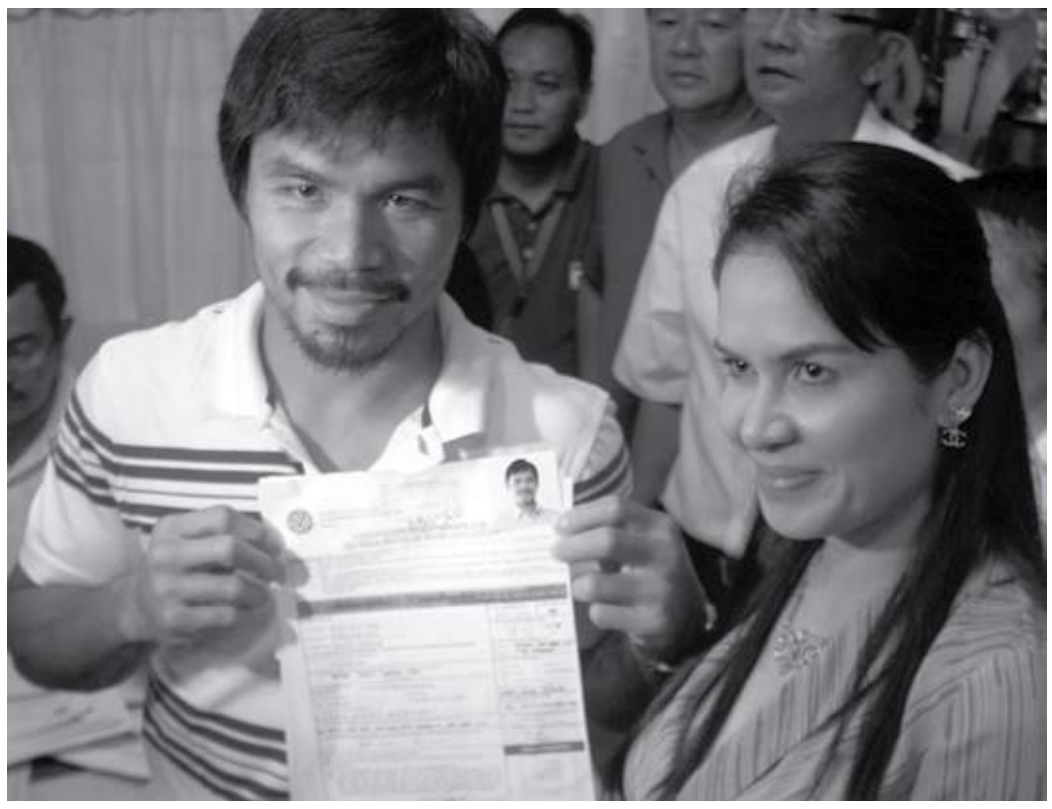
Imelda Marcos returned in 1991 and ran unsuccessfully for president the following year. She won a congressional seat from her home province of Leyte and served from 1995 to 1998.

The Marcos family still wields influence, despite accusations of embezzlement, human rights abuses and Imelda Marcos' ostentatious lifestyle when most of the country wallowed in poverty during the husband's 20-year rule.

Marcos will be running against a former vice governor in the second district of Batac, said Apolinario Saturnino from the Elections Commission.

She is seeking to replace her son, Rep. Ferdinand "Bong Bong" Marcos Jr., who is running for the Senate, while her daughter Imee is running for governor of Illocos Norte, a position that has been held by a cousin.

The presidential race is shaping up as a contest among the son of the late president and democracy icon Corazon Aquino, Benigno "Nonoy" Aquino III; fellow Senator Manuel Villar, a wealthy real estate developer; and administration candidate Gilbert Teodoro, a former defense chief.



AP

Philippine boxing hero Manny Pacquiao, left, stands beside wife Jinky as he shows the certificate of candidacy for Congress which he filed at the provincial capitol in Sarangani province, southern Philippines on Tuesday Dec. 1, 2009.

Top US commander: Build Afghan forces

KABUL (AP)—The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan said Wednesday that NATO and U.S. forces will hand over responsibility for securing the country to its own security forces "as rapidly as conditions allow"—welcome news for war-weary American troops trying to hold back insurgents.

"The more the merrier, but it depends on what the mission will be," said Spc. Stephen Ayala from San Antonio, Texas, with the 425th Field Artillery battalion. "If they come to train the Afghans, that's good for us. If they are going to do some damage, so much the better. But for us, we just want to go home."

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, in a statement issued in Kabul just before President Barack Obama formally announced he was sending 30,000 more U.S. troops to the war, said his main focus will be to develop the capacity of the police and army in Afghanistan, where the president said the security situation had deteriorated.

"We will work toward improved security for Afghanistan and the transfer of responsibility to Afghan security forces as rapidly as conditions allow," McChrystal said.

"In the meantime, our Afghan partners need the support of coalition forces while we grow and develop the capacity of the Afghan army and police. That will be the main focus of our campaign in the months ahead."

Ayala and other U.S. service members deployed 22 miles (35 kilometers) west of Kabul in Wardak province learned of Obama's decision to send more troops while watching clips of the president's speech broadcast during their breakfast of sausage, eggs, hash browns, fruit and cereal at Forward Operating Base Airborne.

Cpl. Joshua McClellan, from Fostoria, Ohio, is on his third tour in Afghanistan.

"We're just interested in whether Obama was going to say whether he would extend us a while over here," McClellan said. "A lot of us are ready to push out and get back home."

Obama said that increasing the capacity of Afghan security forces will allow international forces to start transferring out of Afghanistan in July 2011—depending on conditions on the ground.

Spc. Ty Hooks, a combat engineer from Vidalia, Ga., cheered any accelerated training for the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police.

"That's a good thing," Hooks said. "Maybe the ANA and ANP can stand up and do their jobs."

Bomber kills anti-Taliban lawmaker in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's Supreme Court said Tuesday it will soon begin examining an expired amnesty covering the president and key allies. The decision launches a process that could unseat the U.S.-allied leader just as the Obama administration needs stability in Islamabad to help crack down on the Taliban.

Highlighting the dangers, a suicide bomber killed an anti-Taliban lawmaker in the Swat Valley—the latest in a series of bombings as the army presses offensives in militant strongholds close to the Afghan border.

President Asif Ali Zardari has been under mounting pressure to resign or relinquish key powers to the prime minister and assume a ceremonial role.

Those calls came to the fore with Saturday's expiration of an amnesty that had been granted to him and more than 8,000 other politicians and bureaucrats under his predecessor.

A statement issued Tuesday said the Supreme Court has received petitions calling the amnesty a violation of fundamental rights. It said the court has notified all concerned parties that it will start proceedings on the cases Monday.

The amnesty was part of a deal with then-President Pervez Musharraf that paved the way for former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to return from self-exile and take part in politics without facing cases her party says were politically motivated. Zardari took control of the party after Bhutto, his wife, died in a suicide bombing Dec. 27, 2007.

The amnesty expired on Saturday, opening the possibility that opponents could petition the court to challenge his eligibility for office. Zardari generally enjoys immunity from prosecution but legal experts have said that could be revoked if the amnesty were determined to be illegal.

His office declined to comment on the Supreme Court decision.

The legal process is likely to take months and is far from certain to deliver a fatal blow to Zardari's presidency, but the speed with which the court announced its intention to hear petitions suggests it wants to move ahead forcefully.

Earlier this year, Zardari gave in to street protests and reinstated Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry as chief justice after he was fired by Musharraf. Many analysts took Zardari's reluctance to reinstate Chaudhry as a sign he feared the justice would try to undermine his rule.

Zardari, 54, has long been haunted by corruption allegations dating to governments led by Bhutto, and spent several years in prison. He denies any wrongdoing.

The opposition also has called on Zardari to give up sweeping powers he inherited from Musharraf.

North Korea revalues money, causing black market chaos

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea revalued its national currency for the first time in decades in a bid to fight inflation and flush out the black market money trade, reports said Tuesday—a move that sent residents of the communist state scrambling to convert hoarded money into foreign currencies.

North Korea revalued its currency at an exchange rate between old and new notes of 100 to 1, China's Xinhua news agency said in a dispatch from Pyongyang. It cited a verbal notice Tuesday from North Korea's Foreign Ministry to foreign embassies in North Korea.

The exchange of old notes started Monday and will continue until Sunday, Xinhua reported. It said no reason was provided for the sudden change.

The redenomination drove residents in Pyongyang to rush to black markets to convert stashed-away money into dollars and Chinese yuan, Yonhap News Agency said in Seoul, citing unidentified North Korean traders operating in China.

"Pyongyang residents were taken aback and thrown into a big confusion due to the currency reform," the traders were quoted as saying.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rescued NKorean soldier handed to NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The U.S.-led United Nations Command has repatriated a North Korean soldier rescued at sea by South Korea's navy. The command said the army sergeant was handed over to the North at the border village of Panmunjom on Wednesday. It said the soldier affirmed his desire to return to the North during interviews with the command and the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission. The village is jointly overseen by the U.N. Command and North Korea—an arrangement established in 1953 to supervise the cease-fire that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

Government-backed Chinese gay bar stays empty

BEIJING (AP)—A new bar in southwestern China aimed at educating gay men about AIDS stayed conspicuously empty during its official opening as potential customers shunned the spotlight, state media said Wednesday. The bar, which receives government funding from the health bureau in Yunnan province's Dali town, was slated to open Tuesday to mark World AIDS Day, the China Daily reported. But the intense media attention that greeted the announcement of its opening kept customers away, Zhang Jianbo, the bar's owner and a local AIDS doctor in Dali, was quoted as saying by the newspaper. "They refused to show up at the opening for fear of media exposure and potential discrimination," he said.

Australia's Parliament defeats global warming bill

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia's Parliament defeated legislation to set up a greenhouse gas emissions trading system on Wednesday, throwing a central plank of the government's plans to combat global warming into disarray. The Senate, where Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's government does not hold a majority, rejected his administration's proposal for Australia to become one of the first countries to install a so-called cap-and-trade system to slash the amount of heat-trapping pollution that industries pump into the air. The 41-33 vote followed a tumultuous debate in which the conservative main opposition party at first agreed to support a version of the government's bill, then dramatically dumped its leader and switched sides after bitter divisions erupted within the party.

World

South Africa to treat all HIV-positive babies

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—South Africa announced ambitious new plans Tuesday for earlier and expanded treatment for HIV-positive babies and pregnant women, a change that could save hundreds of thousands of lives in the nation hardest hit by the virus that causes AIDS.

President Jacob Zuma—once ridiculed for saying a shower could prevent AIDS—was cheered as he outlined the measures on World AIDS Day. The new policy marks a dramatic shift from former President Thabo Mbeki, whose health minister distrusted drugs developed to keep AIDS patients alive and instead promoted garlic and beet treatments. Those policies led to more than 300,000 premature deaths, a Harvard study concluded.

The changes are in line with new guidelines issued a day earlier by the World Health Organization that call for HIV-infected pregnant women to be given drugs earlier and while breast-feeding. By treating all HIV-infected babies, survival rates should also improve for the youngest citizens in South Africa, one of only 12 countries where child mortality has worsened since 1990, in part due to AIDS.

AP

South African President Jacob Zuma, second from left, at a World AIDS Day event in Pretoria, South Africa, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009.

Zuma compared the fight against HIV, which infects one in 10 South Africans, to the decades-long struggle his party led against the apartheid government, which ended in 1994 with the election of Nelson Mandela in the country's first multiracial vote.

"At another moment in our history, in another context, the liberation movement observed that the time comes in the life of any nation when there remain only two choices: submit or fight," Zuma said. "That time has now come in our struggle to overcome AIDS. Let us declare now, as we declared then, that we shall not submit."

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned that new infections are outpacing the gains from treating people with the HIV virus. He said that more must be done urgently to reach the U.N. goal of providing universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010.

"That means countering any form of HIV-related stigma and discrimination," Ban said in a statement. "It means eliminating violence against women and girls. It means ensuring access to HIV information and services."

Zuma was greeted with a standing ovation when he entered a Pretoria exhibition hall filled with several thousand people.

In some ways, Zuma is an unlikely AIDS hero. As his Zulu tradition allows, he has three wives—experts say having multiple, concurrent partners heightens the risk of AIDS. And in 2006, while being tried on charges of raping an HIV-positive family friend, he testified he took a shower after extramarital sex to lower the risk of AIDS. He was acquitted of rape.

The one-time chairman of the country's national AIDS council may never live down the shower comment. But Zuma has won praise for appointing Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi as his health minister. AIDS activists say Motsoaledi trusts science and is willing to learn from past mistakes.

UK climate scientist to temporarily step down

LONDON (AP)—The chief of a prestigious British research center caught in a storm of controversy over claims that he and others suppressed data about climate change has stepped down pending an investigation, the University of East Anglia said Tuesday.

The university said in a statement that Phil Jones, whose e-mails were among the thousands of pieces of correspondence leaked to the Internet late last month, would relinquish his position as director of Climatic Research Unit until the completion of an independent review.

The university's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research Trevor Davies said the investigation would cover data security, whether the university responded properly to Freedom of Information requests, "and any other relevant issues." The statement said the specific terms of the review will be announced later in the week.

Jones has been accused by skeptics of man-made climate change of manipulating data to support his research. In particular, many have pointed to a leaked e-mail in which Jones writes that he had used a "trick" to "hide the decline" in a chart detailing recent global temperatures. Jones has denied manipulating evidence and insisted his comment had been misunderstood, explaining that he'd used the word trick "as in a clever thing to do."

Davies said there was nothing in the stolen material to suggest the peer-reviewed publications by the unit "are not of the highest-quality of scientific investigation and interpretation."

But the correspondence from Jones and others—which appears to include discussions of how to keep critical work out of peer-reviewed journals and efforts to shield scientists' data and methodology from outside scrutiny—have been seized upon by those who are fighting efforts to impose caps on emissions of carbon dioxide as evidence of a scientific conspiracy.

Nazi victims' families testify at Demjanjuk trial

MUNICH (AP)—Rudolf Salomon Cortissos sobbed as he told a Munich court about the letter his mother had written on May 17, 1943—four days before she was gassed in the Nazis' Sobibor death camp with some 2,300 other Dutch Jews.

Cortissos testified on Tuesday, the second day in a German court for John Demjanjuk, the retired Ohio autoworker being tried on charges of being an accessory to the murder of 27,900 Jews in the Sobibor camp, including Cortissos' mother Emmy.

Sitting only feet away from Demjanjuk, Cortissos said he found her letter after his father died in 1959.

His mother had tossed it from the train that was taking her from Holland before it crossed the German border, Cortissos testified. The family had been in hiding, but she had been picked up in a sweep after going outside.

In neat handwriting, on a single piece of yellowed paper folded into quarters, Cortissos' mother told the family she was being sent east to work—a lie propagated by the Nazis so people would be less likely to resist.

"I promise you I will be tough and I will definitely survive," she wrote in what turned out to be her final words to her family. She signed off: "Hope to see you again soon. Bye bye. Many kisses."

The 89-year-old Demjanjuk was deported from the United States in May to stand trial in Germany. He rejects the charges, saying he has been mistaken for someone else.

Demjanjuk—who suffers from several medical problems—was wheeled in to the Munich state court on a gurney Tuesday, slightly propped up lying on his back. He arrived much the same way on Monday, the day the trial began.

A blanket covered his legs and his leather jacket was zipped up to his neck. As Cortissos told his story, Demjanjuk kept a blue baseball cap low over his face and had no visible reaction.

Cortissos is one of about 40 victims' relatives who have joined the trial as co-plaintiffs, which is allowed under the German legal system. He said he regretted that his testimony did not appear to affect Demjanjuk.

Iran considering reducing ties to UN nuclear body

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Tuesday that Tehran is reviewing the option of decreasing cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog after it issued a resolution critical of Iran last week.

Speaking in a live television interview late Tuesday, Ahmadinejad also criticized Russia's support for International Atomic Energy Agency's resolution, calling it a mistake.

"Friendly relations with the agency are over. We will cooperate as much as they offer us compromises. We are reviewing this," he said.

The sharply worded IAEA resolution on Friday demanded Iran halt all uranium enrichment and stop construction of a newly discovered nuclear facility near the Iranian city of Qom. Iran responded by saying it would build even more such facilities.

Iran says its nuclear program is peaceful, insisting it has a right to enrich uranium to produce fuel for nuclear reactors to generate electricity. The United Nations has demanded Iran freeze enrichment, because the process can also be used to develop a warhead. The U.S. and its allies accuse Iran of secretly planning to build a weapon.

Russia, which has cooperated with Iran in the past to develop its nuclear program, supported the resolution, earning it Ahmadinejad's censure.

"Russia made a mistake. It has no correct analysis about current situation of the world," he said, maintaining that Britain and Israel had swayed the opinion of the U.N. body because of their animosity toward Iran.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraqi shoe-thrower finds out what it was like

PARIS (AP)—The Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at President George W. Bush in Baghdad last year had a taste of his own medicine Tuesday when he nearly got beaned by a shoe thrower at a news conference in Paris. Muntadhar al-Zeidi ducked and the shoe hit the wall behind him. "He stole my technique," al-Zeidi later quipped. The identity of the new shoe-thrower—and his motivation—weren't immediately clear, but he appeared to be an Iraqi. It was not known if the intruder was a journalist or just pretended to be one to attend the news conference at a center for foreign reporters. Whatever his motive, the confrontation didn't stop there.

Report: Breast-feeding mother smothers baby on jet

LONDON (AP)—A breast-feeding mother accidentally smothered her four-week old child aboard a United Airlines flight from Washington, D.C., to Kuwait, a British tabloid reported Tuesday. The Sun newspaper said that the mother, who it said was a 29-year-old Egyptian-born woman, fell asleep as she breast-fed on the jet and awoke to find that the child had been smothered. The paper said the plane was diverted to London's Heathrow in an attempt to save the baby's life. The paper cited an unnamed police source in its reporting. Scotland Yard confirmed that a United Airlines plane had been diverted to Heathrow in late November after reports that a four-week-old girl was in distress. The police said in a statement that the baby was taken to a nearby hospital, where she was pronounced dead. It added that an autopsy had been performed, but the results were still pending.

Latin America's first gay marriage thwarted

BUENOS AIRES (AP)—An Argentine couple's attempt to unite in Latin America's first gay marriage was thwarted Tuesday when city officials decided to block the wedding because of conflicting judicial rulings. Jose Maria Di Bello and Alex Freyre showed up at the Buenos Aires civil registry office despite a national judge's ruling late Monday that overturned a city court's decision to permit them to wed. The first judge ruled again Tuesday that they could wed. The couple, dressed in black suits, silver ties and a red band symbolizing AIDS awareness, waited for hours in the municipal office as officials debated which judge to obey. They were surrounded by supporters and a swarm of media.

Environment

CNMI teachers go to science camp

Educators explore connections between land and sea

Educators from around the island explored ways to bring coral reef education into their classrooms at the 2009 Teacher Camp.

The teacher workshop based on the "Ridge to Reef" theme looked at the connections between land and sea, and explored ways in which teachers can share that knowledge with students. Land-based pollution is one of the greatest threats to coral reefs today.

Together with field experts, the teachers toured Kagman Wetland Education Island, Garapan Watershed and Tank Beach— part of the Forbidden Island Marine Sanctuary. The camp was held Saturday, Nov. 21.

Teachers took home activity folders, which will help them develop lesson plans. As a follow-up to the camp, upon completion of three "Ridge to Reef"-related lesson plans, teachers and their classes will embark on educational field trips funded by Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA).

The camp is a combined effort of MINA, Coastal Resources Management Office, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Division of Environmental Quality and the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative.

The following is a list of camp presenters and topics:

■ Brooke Nevitt, Coastal Resources Management: *Ridge to Reef: Making the Connections*

■ Lisa Eller, Division of Environmental Quality: *Watersheds*

■ Laura Williams, Division of Fish and Wildlife: *Wetlands*

■ Kathy Yuknavage, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance: *Marine Debris*

To learn more about upcoming Teacher Camps, contact Brooke Nevitt, CRM Education and Outreach Coordinator at 664-8300. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Teachers look for sources of pollution in a watershed scavenger hunt in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants assess their experience at Teacher Camp.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Educators explore Tank Beach in the Forbidden Island Marine Sanctuary.

Carbon credits spell new future for forests

BURNT WOODS, Ore. (AP)—Driving through the verdant timberlands of Oregon's Coast Range, Matt Fehrenbacher pointed out a mountainside where every tree had been clearcut.

"That's business as usual," said Fehrenbacher, a forester with The Pacific Forest Trust, a conservation group that manages private forest both to produce lumber and to store carbon as a hedge against global warming.

Later Fehrenbacher walked through the forest he manages for the Van Eck Forest Foundation, showing off tall Douglas firs that are breaking into a new growth spurt after trees around them were cut to let in more sun, dead logs with mushrooms sprouting from them left behind on the forest floor, and hemlock seedlings planted next to stumps left from logs sold for lumber.

"There's a sweetspot where a landowner can potentially balance your timber value with your carbon values," said Fehrenbacher. "As this market emerges it's becoming more of a reality. Landowners' interest is very high right now."

The Van Eck Oregon Forest that Fehrenbacher manages is not yet getting paid for the carbon it stores, but it is positioning itself for the day when it will be, either under an emerging voluntary market for carbon credits, or if climate legislation—one of President Obama's top priorities—is enacted in the U.S. Senate.

Trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide as part of photosynthesis, and store it in their leaves and wood. When trees burn, rot, or are cut down, they return carbon to the atmosphere. The trick is to maximize the amount that gets stored.

While the climate bill has drawn strong opposition from conservatives wary of creating a cap and trade system that charges carbon producers, like coal-fired power plants, it has united two longtime adversaries.

Timberland owners and environmental groups both want to see the bill pass. For timberland owners, it means new sources of revenue immune to the boom and bust of the housing industry. One comes from the cap and trade market paying for leaving trees standing. Another comes from promoting the sale of biomass—small trees cut to reduce fire danger and make room for other trees to grow—that can be mixed with coal in power plants, or turned into pellets for wood-fired furnaces.

For conservation groups, it is a way to stop millions of acres of forest land from falling to development, leaving it standing for fish and wildlife habitat.

"A lot of people in the Senate want to get the whole thing through without cap and trade," said Andrew Light, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank in Washington, D.C. "Some are starting to realize ... that if you don't get cap and trade, you don't get all the great forestry stuff, which is bringing together a lot of strange bedfellows."

As yet, the bill does not address national forests, or the desire of wood products manufacturers to get credit for lumber and plywood that will store carbon in buildings for a century or more.

The "forestry stuff" does have has timberland owners very interested.

"We're taking it on the chin right now," said Dave Tenny, a former Bush administration timber official now heading the National Alliance of Forest Owners. "Markets are down. The economics pressures are real for every class of landowner. Now here comes an opportunity for new incentives or markets for these forests to make a contribution, not only to the environment, but to landowners as well."

Landowners are already starting to reap the benefits of leaving trees standing as companies look for ways to voluntarily offset their carbon footprint.

The Walt Disney Co. recently pledged $7 million to protect or restore tens of thousands of acres of forest in the Congo basin, the Amazon basin, California's North Coast and the lower Mississippi Valley.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. is paying the city of Arcata, Calif., $400,000 to manage part of its city forest to store carbon for the next 100 years.

Brian C. Murray, director for economic analysis at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, said carbon credits could move tens of millions of acres of cropland into forest, particularly in the Southeast and Midwest, where they have moved back and forth since the Civil War.

"It would be largest land movement we've ever seen in such a short period of time," he said.

AP

In this photo taken Nov. 19, 2009, Pacific Forest Trust forester Matt Fehrenbacher shows off a log cross section on the Van Eck Oregon Forest near Burnt Woods, Ore., while his dog, Josie, stands by. The cross section shows how the tree grew quickly while it was young, then slowed down as other trees crowded around it.

Life & Style

Audrey Hepburn's designer gowns hit auction blocks

PARIS (AP)—Audrey Hepburn fans got a sneak peek Tuesday of dozens of garments and personal effects once belonging to the movie star that will hit the auction blocks next week.

A Givenchy black lace dress that Hepburn wore in "How to Steal a Million" and a demure ivory wedding gown that never made it down the aisle are among the items.

The fans, fashionistas and those looking to score a slice of film history were given the preview of the collection in Paris before the Dec. 8 sale in London.

"For her, what was important was not decoration and lots of embellishment. She liked very simple things—less was always more for Audrey," said auctioneer Kerry Taylor, whose eponymous auction house is handling the sale.

Star lots include an Yves Saint Laurent empire waisted gown in white cotton that she wore to her son Luca's 1970 christening, estimated at 1,500-2,500 pounds ($2,485-$4,141), and an abbreviated, long-sleeve Valentino Haute Couture dress in ivory silk and lace that's identical to the one worn by Jacqueline Kennedy at her 1968 wedding to Aristotle Onassis.

AP

Dresses worn by Audrey Hepburn exhibited amongst dozens of garments and personal items once belonging to the Hollywood star, in Paris, Tuesday Dec. 1, 2009, prior to a auction in London on Dec. 8.

Another ivory wedding gown, made for Hepburn by the Rome-based Fontana sisters, is expected to fetch 8,000-12,000 pounds—though Hepburn herself didn't wear it down the aisle. After her marriage to James Hanson, which was scheduled for 1952, was called off, Hepburn asked that the Fontana sisters give it "to someone who could never afford a dress like mine, the most beautiful, poor Italian girl you can find," the auction catalog quotes Hepburn as saying.

And then there's the Givenchy: pared-down cocktail dresses, buttery silk tops, ladylike coats and dramatic sweeping gowns made by legendary French couturier for Hepburn, his muse.

"She said of Hubert de Givenchy that he was her greatest friend and he said of her that it was a real romance between the two, a real love affair that lasted all their lives," Taylor told The Associated Press at Sotheby's Paris showroom, where the two-day-long preview was held.

A Givenchy cocktail dress and cropped jacket made from black lace—which Hepburn wore in the 1966 romantic comedy "How to Steal a Million," costarring Peter O'Toole—is expected to fetch the sale's highest price of between 15,000-20,000 pounds—though auctioneer Taylor acknowledges the estimates are very approximate.

She said that clothes having once belonged to Hepburn, who died in 1993, rarely come to auction and the last two pieces fetched a whopping $1 million.

"These are harder times, and I've tried to keep my feet on the ground," she said, adding that lots start at an estimated 250 pounds for a straw hat. Another headpiece, a domed hat by Givenchy in green velvet with dangling beaded and feathered tassels, was featured in a 1964 Vogue shoot, and is estimated at 800-1,200 pounds.

Most of the lots come from the closets of Tanja Star-Busmann, a longtime friend of the actress. The two met in London when Tanja was 15 years old and Hepburn 20—just before her career took off.

"I was perhaps her first unofficial fan—writing letters to her from boarding school and receiving replies," Star-Busmann, who is now in her 70s, wrote in the auction catalog. In addition to letters—some of which are to be sold—Hepburn also regularly gave her young confidant her hand-me-downs, which became increasingly fabulous as her star rose.

"Over the years, a cavalcade of boxes filled to the brim ... arrived at my door," wrote Star-Busmann. "Unpacking them was always like Xmas all over."

One of the pieces, a white point d'esprit bustier dress Hepburn wore in the 1956 movie "Love in the Afternoon," came shortly after Star-Busmann gave birth to a daughter. Enclosed with the frothy tulle was a note reading "just so you know what it's like to have a waist again," the catalog said.

After she recovered her figure, Star-Busman passed the dress on to her nanny, who—not having Hepburn's wasp-thin figure—had it enlarged using two panels down the back.

Death and Funeral Announcement

Alejandro Cabrera Tudela

Better known as "Ando Pakitu"

He was called to his eternal rest on November 27, 2009 at the Commonwealth Health Center. He was born on February 9, 1935.

In His new life, he now joins his:

Wife: Romana Villagomez Tudela
Daughter: Shawna Romana Villagomez Tudela
Mother: Rosa Cabrera Tudela
Father: Isidro Sablan Tudela
Maternal Grandparents: Antonia Palacios Cabrera & Herman Woitchek
Paternal Grandparents: Francisco Ramirez Tudela & Ana Del Rosario Sablan Tudela
Mother-In-Law: Ana Garrido Villagomez
Father-In-Law: Ignacio Pangelinan Villagomez

His memory will live forever in the hearts of his:

Second Wife: Hua (Ana) Y. Tudela
Children/Spouse/Grandchildren/Great-Grandchildren:
Barbara T. /Kilafa H. Jackson (Lani and Alexandro)
Magdalena T. /Gabriel B. Babauta (Shawn & Christiana-Ethan, Jerome, Kevin)
Ana Lauren T. /Ramon C. Chong (Shawna, Ramon, LeAndro Frank, Romana Tefania)
Alan Y. Tudela

Brothers/Sisters/Spouse:
Jose C. and †Margarita C. Tudela
†Basilisa C. Tudela
†Candido C. and Consolacion A. Tudela
Margarita T. and †Edward John Riva
†Ismael C. Tudela
†Natalia T. and †Charles J. Ronsheimer
†Silvera T. and Ireneo B. Asuncion, Jr.
Teresita T. and Daniel L. Camacho
Jesusa C. Tudela
†Inocencia C. Tudela

Brothers/Sisters In-Law:
Merced V. and †Victorino C. Cabrera
†Francisco G. and Isabel C. Villagomez
Raphael G. and Maria S. Villagomez
†Jesus G. and Nieves S. Villagomez
Jose G. Villagomez O.F.Cap: Pastor
Juan G. Luise C. Villagomez
†Justice Ramon G. Villagomez and Angelina C. Villagomez
Consolacion V. and Franklin B. Quichocho
Cecilia V. and Vicente A. San Nicolas

Daily mass is being offered at the Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am.

On Friday, December 4, 2009, his remains will be escorted at 7:00 am from the Borja's Funeral Home to the Mount Carmel Cathedral Church. Mass of Christian Burial will commence at 10:00 am and Interment services will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Chalan Kanoa.

From the Family

AP

In this image made from video provided Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009 by NBC Universal, Tareq and Michaele Salahi are interviewed on the "Today" show.

WH gatecrashers went without confirmed invitation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The attention-hungry couple that crashed the Obama administration's first state dinner admitted to a friendly Pentagon official that they went without a confirmed invitation - just in case they got approved at the last minute.

Tareq and Michaele Salahi claimed a dead cell phone battery prevented them from hearing a voicemail earlier that day advising them they did not make the guest list

The Salahis gave that account in an e-mail sent just hours after last week's dinner to Pentagon official Michele Jones, who had tried to get them invited. A collection of e-mails between the Salahis and Jones was obtained Tuesday night by The Associated Press from a source who got them in manner that confirmed their authenticity.

The Salahis wrote that they drove to the White House at 6:30 p.m. "to just check in, in case it got approved since we didn't know, and our name was indeed on the list!" The Secret Service has said they weren't on that list and that it erred by letting them in anyway.

Last week's White House gate caper has captivated a capital where high-end social life and celebrity eruptions frequently enliven the day-to-day business of governing. The Secret Service is investigating. Congress also is about to hold a hearing. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle are described as angry. And the Salahis asked a national television audience to take their word that the e-mail exchange would show that they were invited to the dinner for the visiting Indian prime minister.

Judge keeps ban on release of Jennifer Lopez video

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Home videos featuring Jennifer Lopez and a movie project based on them won't be coming to a screen near you because a judge blocked their distribution Tuesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant issued the preliminary injunction against Lopez's ex-husband, Ojani Noa, and manager, Ed Meyer, who have sought to distribute the footage.

Lopez sued the pair for $10 million last month, claiming Noa was trying to violate the terms of the couple's divorce and a confidentiality agreement by releasing 11 hours of footage. The injunction also covers a film project that Meyer and Noa have called a "mockumentary" about Noa's escape from Cuba and his life since then.

The injunction issued Tuesday will remain in effect until the case is resolved. Lopez's attorney, Jay Lavely, said it will now go into arbitration.

Lopez wed Noa in 1997, but their marriage lasted just 11 months.

An attorney for the singer-actress said the footage doesn't contain sexual situations.

Noa agrees, saying after Tuesday's hearing that the footage was shot when he and Lopez traveled to Cuba. He vowed to fight the case, although he didn't speak during Tuesday's hearing and wasn't represented by an attorney.

"This thing is not going to end here," Noa said, clutching an upcoming calendar of his modeling photos. "I'm not going to let them or her step all over me again."

Lopez

He and Meyer said they plan to file a cross-complaint against Lopez. "We could sue her for the sky is the limit," Meyer said.

Lopez, 40, did not attend the hearing.

In 2007, she won $545,000 in damages and attorney fees in another lawsuit that blocked Noa from publishing a ghost-written tell-all book.

In issuing the injunction, Chalfant noted that Meyer's attorney hadn't filed any opposition papers or shown why his client hadn't provided information the judge ordered to be turned over to Lopez's attorney.

Meyer had threatened in recent days to file the footage in the court case, allowing the public and reporters access to it, even if it meant time behind bars.

"If he wants to go to jail, he can go to jail," Chalfant said, noting that Meyer was "threatening to commit essentially an act of contempt of court."

Boston teen panel: Lady Gaga and Foxx songs are 'unhealthy

BOSTON (AP)—An initiative to encourage healthy teen relationships says songs by Jamie Foxx and Lady Gaga are the musical equivalent of junk food.

A teen panel working with the Boston Public Health Commission has determined that their songs are among the top 10 with "unhealthy relationship ingredients."

The commission on Tuesday released its list based on a "nutrition label" rating popular songs on healthy relationship themes.

The "Sound Relationships Nutrition Label" was developed by 14 teens after they attended a seven-week commission-sponsored institute on healthy relationship promotion and teen dating violence prevention. During the seven-week program, teens were also taught to evaluate music based on themes of power, control, equality and gender roles.

The teens then developed their list after analyzing songs from Billboard's "Hot 100" chart.

Mario's "Break Up" featuring Gucci Man and Sean Garrett and Jamie Foxx's "Blame It" featuring T-Pain topped the list for the most unhealthy relationship songs of 2009. Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" and Pitbull's "Hotel Room Service" were also listed.

Among the teen panel's top 10 songs with healthy themes: "Miss Independent" by Ne-Yo and "Meet Me Halfway" by the Black Eyed Peas.

Shaquilla Terry, 15, of Boston, a teen panel member, said it was important for listeners to go beyond the songs' beats and listen to the lyrics.

The commission says its program aims to teach teens how to evaluate popular media, and help parents talk to teens about healthy relationships. Commission officials also said the label invites consumers to become song lyric nutritionists by helping them identify positive and negative messages about relationships in songs.

"We aren't telling people what they should or should not be listening to," Barbara Ferrer, the commission's executive director, said in a statement. "We are giving them a tool that will help them make an informed choice about what they put in their bodies."

In addition to the label, the commission also plans to released a lesson plan for teachers.

Jack Perricone, chair of the songwriting department at the Berklee College of Music, said pop songs generally allow listeners to get away from the bad news of the day. But he said pop music, by its very nature, is very repetitive, and sometimes if songs have negative messages, those repetitive messages can get inside teens' heads.

James Woods settles lawsuit over brother's wrongful death

WARWICK, R.I. (AP)—Oscar-nominated actor James Woods settled a lawsuit against a Rhode Island hospital where his brother, Michael, died, a judge announced Tuesday, after a hospital executive apologized and agreed to start an institute in his brother's name.

The settlement, which also included an undisclosed sum to the Woods family, came in the fourth week of testimony at Kent County Superior Court in the wrongful death lawsuit against Kent Hospital for the 2006 death.

Michael Woods, 49, had a heart attack and died in the emergency room after going there with a sore throat and vomiting, and James Woods claimed the hospital didn't do enough to save him.

Woods said the turning point came after Kent Hospital Chief Executive Sandra Coletta met with the Woods family Monday and apologized for the first time.

At a joint news conference with Coletta outside the courthouse, Woods teared up as he described the loss of his brother and the anger and bitterness the family had felt.

But he said that with the opening of The Michael J. Woods Institute at Kent Hospital, which will work to find ways to reduce human errors at hospitals, there would be something positive out of his brother's death.

"We made the best of a horrible tragedy," Woods said.

The two sides would not comment on other terms of the settlement, but Woods said Michael's three children would "have the opportunity to have a good education."

Coletta said at the news conference that mistakes had been made in Michael Woods' case.

The hospital agreed to invest $1.25 million over the next five years in the institute, which will look at how to reduce the risk of errors based on how humans actually do things, also known as human factors research. Its leadership will include a representative of Michael Woods' family, as well as experts from inside and outside of the hospital.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

Vicente Diaz Magofna

Better known as "Benco"

Would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our dearly beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Daily Mass will be offered at the San Antonio Church

Sunday, December 06, 2009	**7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.**
Monday, December 07, 2009	**6:00 p.m.**
Tuesday, December 08, 2009	**8:00 a.m.**
Wednesday, December 09, 2009	**6:00 p.m.**
Thursday, December 10, 2009	**6:00 p.m.**
Friday, December 11, 2009	**6:00 p.m.**
Saturday, December 12, 2009	**6:00 p.m.**
Sunday, December 13, 2009	**7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.**

On the final day, Monday, December 14, 2009 Eucharistic Celebration will be at 6:00 p.m. at the San Antonio Church followed by dinner at the Social Hall. Your presence and prayers would be greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From:
Rosalina Maratita Magofna ("Rose/Ocha")
Children, Grandchildren & Family

Michael Jackson tops Web's search charts in '09

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Michael Jackson's stunning death made him the Internet's biggest star this year.

The quest to find out what happened to Jackson in his final hours on June 25 and celebrate his legacy elevated the late entertainer to the top of the Internet's search charts for 2009. On Yahoo, it ended singer Britney Spears' four-year reign on top.

The annual lists released Tuesday were compiled separately by Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc., which combined handle two-thirds of the world's Internet searches.

Jackson also grabbed the top spot on the third-largest U.S. search engine, Microsoft Corp.'s Bing, which announced its rankings Sunday. AOL, which relies on Google's search technology, also had Jackson at No. 1.

The lists are meant to provide a reading on our cultural pulse.

As usual, people using Yahoo's search engine in 2009 seemed to be most interested in celebrities and other diversions, even against the sobering backdrop of the worst recession in 70 years.

ON THE NET

Google's list: http://tinyurl.com/yjptwvj
Yahoo's list: http://tinyurl.com/ycxov9f
Bing's list: http://tinyurl.com/yk2vsrf

Google's audience seem more interested in using the Internet to connect with friends and family.

The online hangout Facebook and Tuenti, a similar socializing site in Spain, both made Google's Top 10, as did the popular communications tool Twitter. Microsoft's latest Windows operating system also grabbed a spot. Singer Lady Gaga was the only other celebrity besides Jackson on Google's Top 10.

Google, which processes more than six times the search volume that Yahoo does, has had a more diverse mix in its annual search rankings. The self-proclaimed King of Pop follows former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin (2008) and Apple Inc.'s iPhone (2007) in Google's top spot.

Besides Jackson, the other new entrants on Yahoo's Top 10 list this year were: No. 2, "Twilight," the vampire story that has spawned two movies, including the recently released "New Moon," that are drawing hordes of teenage girls and their mothers; No. 4, Megan Fox, an actress who starred in the movie "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen;" No. 8, Kim Kardashian, part of a family with their own reality TV series; and No. 9, NASCAR, an automobile racing league.

"New Moon" also made Google's Top 10.

The other half of Yahoo's list consisted of 2008 holdovers. With the defending champion Spears dropping to fifth, the others were: No. 3, WWE, or World Wrestling Entertainment; No. 6, Naruto, a character created for the Japanese art form known as anime; No. 7, top-rated television series "American Idol;" and No. 10, RuneScape, an online video game.

Barack Obama made Yahoo's top searches list in 2008 as a presidential candidate and the President-elect, but fell off after he took office in 2009. The others falling out of the Top 10 were all actresses: Miley Cyrus, Jessica Alba, Lindsay Lohan and Angelina Jolie.

Google also said Obama was among search requests that declined the most in 2009. Others losing steam included singer Amy Winehouse and actor Heath Ledger, whose January 2008 death triggered a searching frenzy.

Although the economy couldn't compete with entertainment in 2009, the hard times clearly weighed on people's minds. "Coupons" and "unemployment" were the most requested searches tied to finances, according to Yahoo.

Ask.com, another major search engine, focused its list on the most popular questions posed on its search engine. "How do I get out of debt?" was the second-ranking question of the year.

No. 1? "How much should I weigh?"

'Precious,' 'Last Station' lead Spirit Award noms

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The urban drama "Precious" and the Leo Tolstoy period piece "The Last Station" each earned a leading five nominations Tuesday for the Spirit Awards honoring independent film.

The two acclaimed movies will compete for best feature film with the romance "500 Days of Summer" and the immigrant dramas "Amreeka" and "Sin Nombre."

"Precious: Based on the Novel `Push' by Sapphire" also earned a best-actress nomination for newcomer Gabourey Sidibe, who plays an illiterate Harlem teen rising above a life of incest and abuse, and a supporting-actress slot for Mo'Nique, who plays her mother. The movie also grabbed honors for director Lee Daniels and screenwriter Geoffrey Fletcher.

Helen Mirren had a best-actress nomination for her role as Tolstoy's wife in "The Last Station," while Christopher Plummer earned a supporting-actor honor as the aging Russian author in the drama centered on a struggle over his estate. Filmmaker Michael Hoffman received directing and screenplay nominations for "Last Station."

The Spirit Awards will be presented March 5, two days before the Academy Awards, in a ceremony airing on the Independent Film Channel.

Though many low-budget films competing for Spirit Awards never gain traction for the Oscars, notable contenders often go on to earn nominations for Hollywood's top honors. Last year's acting contenders for the Spirit Awards included eventual best-actor Oscar winner Sean Penn for "Milk," along with Oscar nominees Mickey Rourke for "The Wrestler," Anne Hathaway for "Rachel Getting Married" and Melissa Leo for "Frozen River."

Absent from this year's Spirit Awards nominations is the acclaimed Iraq War drama "The Hurt Locker," which was eligible for those prizes last year. Because it was released theatrically this year, it is eligible for the 2009 Oscars, whose nominations come out Feb. 2.

For best actress, Mirren and Sidibe are up against Nisreen Faour for "Amreeka," Maria Bello for the romantic thriller "Downloading Nancy," and Gwyneth Paltrow for the dark romance "Two Lovers."

Nominated for best actor were Jeff Bridges in the country-music tale "Crazy Heart," Colin Firth in the 1960s gay drama "A Single Man," Joseph Gordon-Levitt in "500 Days of Summer," Souleymane Sy Savane for the buddy drama "Goodbye Solo," and Adam Scott for the sibling story "The Vicious Kind."

The war-on-terror drama "The Messenger" ran second with four nominations, including best feature from a first-time director and supporting-acting slots for Samantha Morton and Woody Harrelson. "The Messenger" star Ben Foster was overlooked for a nomination for his acclaimed performance as an Iraq War hero assigned to notify next-of-kin about soldiers' deaths.

Also nominated for best first feature is the horror sensation "Paranormal Activity," which was shot for just $15,000 and has taken in more than $100 million at the box office.

Joel and Ethan Coen's "A Serious Man," about a Midwest Jewish academic in the 1960s who is beset with career and family troubles, was chosen to receive the Robert Altman Award honoring a film's director, casting director and ensemble of actors.

The Coens also earned a directing nomination for "A Serious Man."

Presented by the cinema group Film Independent, the Spirit Awards honor movies that cost less than $20 million to make, with a significant part of their budget originating from outside the Hollywood studio system. Other criteria for nominations include films' originality and provocative subject matter.

'Big Brother 9' winner ordered to drug center

BOSTON (AP)—The winner of the CBS reality television show "Big Brother 9" was ordered on Tuesday to undergo substance abuse counseling at a Massachusetts treatment center before being released on bail on drug charges.

Adam Jasinski, of Delray Beach, Fla., has pleaded not guilty to a charge of attempting to sell 2,000 pills of oxycodone, the main active ingredient in OxyContin and other painkillers.

A federal agent testified that the 31-year-old Jasinski told him he'd been selling thousands of the pills every month in Florida, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

A judge ruled Tuesday that Jasinski can be released on bail to his parents' custody, but only after he successfully completes a program at an unnamed residential treatment center in Massachusetts.

Prosecutors had asked that Jasinski be held without bail as he awaits trial.

The order from U.S. Magistrate Judge Leo Sorokin requires Jasinski to post three properties he owns and requires his parents to post their home to secure his appearance in court. The order does not specify how long Jasinski must stay in the substance abuse treatment program, but said he must return to court for a hearing before he is released to his parents' custody.

Jasinski's lawyer, Valerie Carter, said Jasinski and his parents are pleased with the order "because the judge has essentially found that Adam is not either a danger to the community or a risk of flight

Palin book sells a million copies

NEW YORK (AP)—"Going Rogue" has sold a million copies.

HarperCollins spokeswoman Tina Andreadis said Tuesday that just two weeks after publication, Sarah Palin's memoir has sold 1 million copies. The print run for "Going Rogue" has been increased again, to 2.8 million copies. The original printing was 1.5 million, then moved up to 2.5 million.

"Going Rogue" joins a select club of million-selling political memoirs that includes Barack Obama's "The Audacity of Hope," Hillary Rodham Clinton's "Living History" and Bill Clinton's "My Life."

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Old Dogs
Friday & Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:15
Monday & Tuesday 4:25 7:15
John Travolta, Robin Williams
Comedy, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
Two best friends—one unlucky-in-love divorcee and the other a fun-loving bachelor—have their lives turned upside down when they're unexpectedly charged with the care of 7-year-old twins while on the verge of the biggest business deal of their lives. The not-so-kid-savvy bachelors stumble in their efforts to take care of the twins, leading to one debacle after another, and perhaps to a new-found understanding of what's really important in life.

Ninja Assassin
Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:10
Monday & Tuesday 4:30 7:10
Rain, Rick Yune
Action • Rated R
Synopsis
Raizo is one of the deadliest assassins in the world. Taken from the streets as a child, he was transformed into a trained killer by the Ozunu Clan, a secret society whose very existence is considered a myth. But haunted by the merciless execution of his friend by the Clan, Raizo breaks free from them...and vanishes. Now he waits, preparing to exact his revenge. In Berlin, Europol agent Mika Coretti has stumbled upon a money trail linking several political murders to an underground network of untraceable assassins from the Far East.

Paranormal Activity
Friday & Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Monday & Tuesday 4:10 7:30
Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat
Thriller, Horror • Rated R
Synopsis
After a young, middle class couple moves into what seems like a typical suburban "starter" tract house, they become increasingly disturbed by a presence that may or may not be demonic, but is certainly most active in the middle of the night. Especially when they sleep. Or try to.

Twilight Saga: New Moon
Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Monday & Tuesday 4:00 7:00
Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Thriller, Romance • Rated PG 13

2012
Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 10:10
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Monday & Tuesday 4:05 7:05
John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Planet 51
Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:20
Monday & Tuesday 4:20 7:20
Gary Oldman, Jessica Biel
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

The Blind Side
Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:25 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:25
Monday & Tuesday 4:15 7:25
Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

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Natasha Bedingfield to perform at Nobel concert

OSLO (AP)—British pop star Natasha Bedingfield will perform at the Dec. 11 Nobel Peace Prize Concert honoring this year's winner, U.S. President Barack Obama, organizers said Wednesday.

Bedingfield, a chart-topper in the U.S. and Europe, will join Wyclef Jean, Toby Keith, and Chinese pianist Lang Lang, organizers said.

The concert will also include performances by Donna Summer, American jazz singer Esperanza Spading, Irish pop quartet Westlife, Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi, Norwegian fiddler Alexander Rybak and Amadou & Mariam, a blues and jazz duet from Mali.

American actor and rap artist Will Smith and his wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, will host the concert, which is held in Oslo the day after the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize, also in the Norwegian capital. The show will be broadcast to "a global television audience," organizers said.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2009 prize to Obama for his "efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

Traditionally, Nobel Peace Prize winners attend the concert the day after they pick up the award. However, Obama has not yet announced how long he will stay in Oslo.

British pop star Natasha Bedingfield.

Teen accused in celeb home burglary to stand trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge ruled Tuesday that a teen accused of burglarizing the home of Orlando Bloom must stand trial.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Darrell Mavis made his ruling in the case of Alexis Neiers after a 90-minute preliminary hearing that included testimony by two police detectives.

Neiers, 18, is accused of being part of a group that targeted the homes of Bloom, Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and other celebrities.

However, Neiers, who is filming a pilot for a reality television show, is accused only in the burglary at Bloom's house. She previously pleaded not guilty to the July break-in.

"The prosecution has one version of the facts, we have another," said attorney Jeffery Rubenstein, who represents Neiers. "We look forward to our day in court so the truth can come out."

Four other people were accused of burglaries that prosecutors said netted $3 million in stolen goods. Their arraignments were scheduled for Wednesday.

AP

In this June 7, 2008 file photo, actor Orlando Bloom arrives at the Raisa Gorbachev Foundation Gala dinner in Hampton, in Surrey, England.

In a short interview on cable network E!'s Web site, Neiers said she was eager to put the matter behind her.

"I just learned my lesson that I need to make some better friends and some better decisions as far as my friends go," she said.

Mellencamp to quit smoking if Facebook group grows

BLOOMINGTON, Indiana (AP)—John Mellencamp's 14-year-old son has started a social networking campaign on Facebook that he hopes will get his rocker dad to quit smoking.

The 58-year-old Mellencamp has said many times since his 1994 heart attack that he's failed in trying to kick his decades-old habit. Mellencamp's youngest son, Speck, says his dad has promised to quit if he gets 1 million people to join the Facebook group. More than 7,000 people had joined the group as of Tuesday afternoon.

Mellencamp publicist Bob Merlis told The Associated Press that the challenge is legitimate.

The Facebook group is called: "1,000,000 to join, my dad john mellencamp will quit smoking."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Regis Philbin has hip replacement surgery

NEW YORK (AP)—Regis Philbin had successful hip replacement surgery Tuesday, and plans to return to his syndicated daytime talk show early next month. An e-mail from "Live! With Regis and Kelly" says: "Word from the hospital is that everything went perfectly this morning during Regis' hip replacement surgery, and his doctor said that Regis couldn't be in better shape." The show says the typical recovery period is four to six weeks, and the 78-year-old Philbin expects to return soon after the first of the year. No other details were available. Philbin had triple heart bypass surgery in 2007.

AP: Little Richard released from hospital

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Little Richard is out of the hospital following hip surgery, promising to perform again. He's recovering at his home near Nashville. The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, who'll turn 77 Saturday, tells The Associated Press that he plans to work hard to complete his recovery so he "can get back on the road as soon as possible." He says when he returns to the stage next year, he'll "be shouting 'Shut Up' and rocking like the old days." Little Richard said Tuesday that he could feel the prayers of his fans and is thankful they care enough about him "to take time to pray." A family friend had said that Little Richard had been in some pain before the surgery last week but continued his rigorous performing schedule.

Final season of FX's 'Nip/Tuck' begins Jan. 6

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The final season of FX's plastic-surgery drama "Nip/Tuck" is set to begin in early January. In announcing its midseason lineup, FX said the show will return Wednesday, Jan. 6, while the third season of the Glenn Close legal drama "Damages" will begin Monday, Jan. 25. FX also said Tuesday that a new animated comedy series, "Archer," set in a fictional spy agency, will begin Thursday, Jan. 14. A freshman drama, "Justified," starring Timothy Olyphant as a deputy U.S. marshal, is coming in March, and a new series starring comedian Louis C.K. will premiere in spring. Dates have yet to be announced for "Justified" or "Louie."

Jewison earns lifetime honor from Directors Guild

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Filmmaker Norman Jewison is receiving a lifetime-achievement award from his peers at the Directors Guild of America. The director, whose films include "In the Heat of the Night," "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Moonstruck," will receive the honor at the guild's annual awards Jan. 30. Directors Guild President Taylor Hackford says Jewison is a rare filmmaker able to move easily among such genres as musicals, romantic comedy and political thrillers. The 83-year-old Jewison has been nominated three times for guild honors and received three directing nominations at the Academy Awards. Past recipient's of the Directors Guild lifetime-achievement honor include Alfred Hitchcock, Orson Welles, Steven Spielberg and Clint Eastwood.

Luminaries inducted into Calif. Hall of Fame

SACRAMENTO, California (AP)—Slain gay rights activist Harvey Milk, "Star Wars" creator George Lucas and feisty football commentator John Madden are among those entering the California Hall of Fame. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and first lady Maria Shriver will induct 13 people into the hall after a red carpet walk Tuesday night. Among those attending the event are Lucas and Madden, actress Carol Burnett, author Danielle Steel, bodybuilding pioneer Joe Weider and Air Force test pilot Gen. Chuck Yeager. Their profiles will be displayed for the next year at The California Museum in Sacramento, along with memorabilia of their achievements. They include Star Wars droids R2-D2 and C-3PO, legislation by inductee Gov. Hiram Johnson creating suffrage, recall and referendum, and Madden's 1977 Super Bowl trophy.

'Simpsons' 20th anniversary special airing Jan. 10

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Simpsons" is going to wrap up its 20th anniversary year of celebration with the help of filmmaker Morgan Spurlock. Fox announced Tuesday that Spurlock will present the hour-long special "The Simpsons 20th Anniversary Special: in 3-D! on Ice" on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 8:30 p.m. EST (Monday, Jan. 11, 0130 EDT). The animated television show debuted on Fox in 1989. At 8 p.m. EST (0100 GMT) that night, the series will air its 450th episode, "Once Upon a Time in Springfield," with guest star Anne Hathaway. Spurlock is best known for his documentary, "Super Size Me."

Poem is a reminder of joy special children can bring

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, you printed a poem about children with special needs having been sent by God to special parents who can nurture and care for them.

Our neighbors—dear friends of ours—have a new baby who has challenges. Although there are days that bring with them frustrations, this loving couple is doing a wonderful job of parenting their beautiful little girl.

With the holidays approaching, would you print that poem again? I would like to give a copy to my neighbors.

IN AWE IN MARYLAND

DEAR IN AWE: The poem you're referring to is titled, "Heaven's Very Special Child," and it's certainly worth sharing again. The author, Edna Massimilla, wrote it after her daughter—a child with Down syndrome—was born.

I have always found its message to be very moving and, when I spoke to Edna, she told me it was written to emphasize that every creation is for a purpose. She's in her 90s now and still writing poems and songs—especially for children with disabilities. Read on:

HEAVEN'S VERY SPECIAL CHILD
A meeting was held quite far from Earth.
It was time again for another birth.
Said the Angels to the Lord above—
"This special child will need much love.
"Her progress may be very slow,
"Accomplishment she may not show.
"And she'll require extra care
"From the folks she meets down there.
"She may not run or laugh or play,
"Her thoughts may seem quite far away.
"So many times she will be labeled
"'different,' 'helpless' and disabled.
"So, let's be careful where she's sent.
"We want her life to be content.
"Please, Lord, find the parents who
"Will do a special job for you.
"They will not realize right away
"The leading role they are asked to play.
"But with this child sent from above
"Comes stronger faith, and richer love.
"And soon they'll know the privilege given
"In caring for their gift from heaven.
"Their precious charge, so meek and mild
"Is heaven's very special child."

DEAR ABBY: Please help correct a holiday misnomer that seems to be growing more entrenched each year. The reindeer in Clement Moore's "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" is DONDER, not Donner! The name continues to be misspoken in TV commercials, so I'm asking your help. Suggestion: Tell your readers to find a copy and read it to their kids or grandkids.

DONDER FAN IN VALLEY SPRINGS, CALIF.

DEAR DONDER FAN: That's an excellent suggestion. I'm in favor of any opportunity parents and grandparents can create to read to children. Not only is it an enjoyable bonding experience, it gives children an incentive to learn to read for themselves.

P.S. In case any of you don't remember the names of the rest of Santa's reindeer, they are: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, DONDER and Blitzen. (Rudolph was added later.)

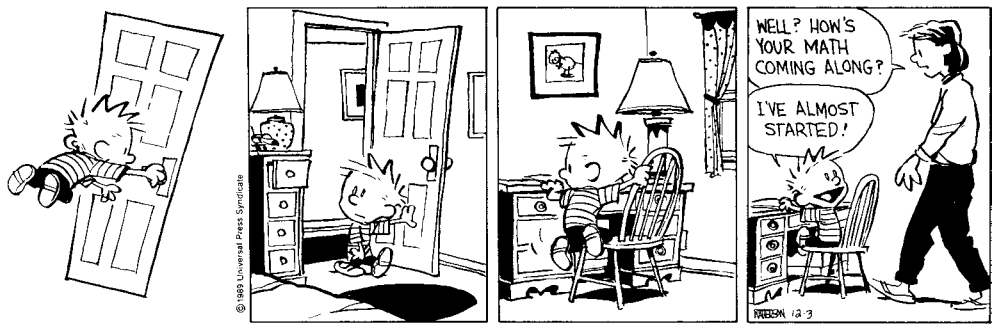
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN VERY GOOD THIS YEAR, YOU KNOW
WHAT ARE YOU ASKING SANTA FOR?
LENIENCY
www.garfield.com
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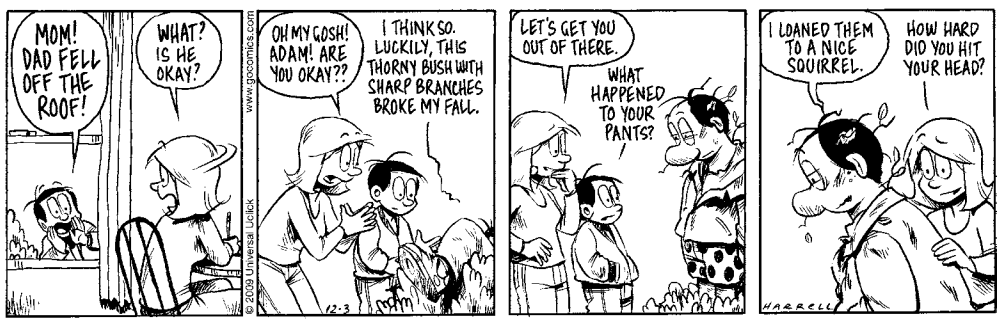
JIM DAVIS 12-3

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MOM! DAD FELL OFF THE ROOF!
WHAT? IS HE OKAY?
OH MY GOSH! ADAM! ARE YOU OKAY??
I THINK SO. LUCKILY, THIS THORNY BUSH WITH SHARP BRANCHES BROKE MY FALL.
LET'S GET YOU OUT OF THERE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PANTS?
I LOANED THEM TO A NICE SQUIRREL.
HOW HARD DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD?
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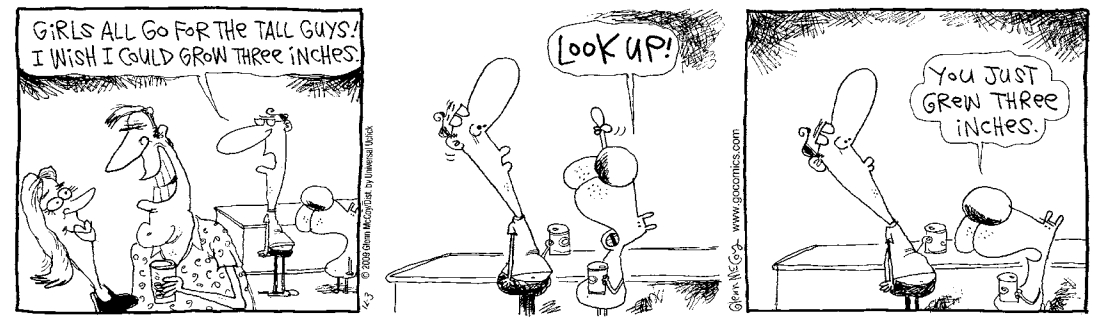
12-3
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


GIRLS ALL GO FOR THE TALL GUYS! I WISH I COULD GROW THREE INCHES.
LOOK UP!
YOU JUST GREW THREE INCHES.
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Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

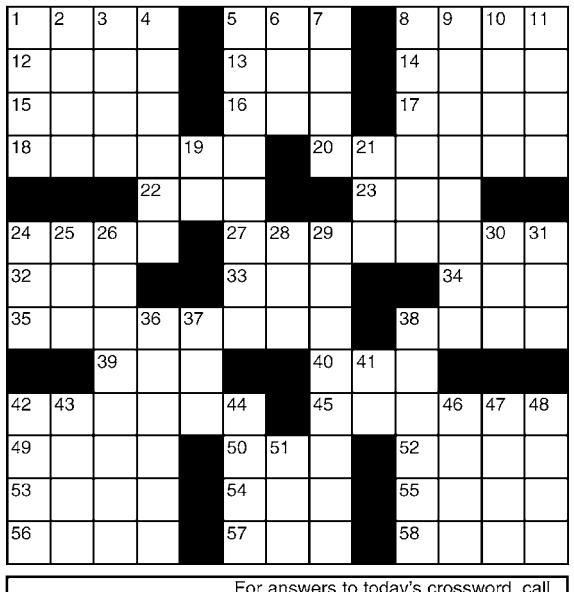
ACROSS
1 Truckload
5 Bill
8 Bat a gnat
12 Celestial bear
13 In olden times
14 Apiece
15 Clarinet insert
16 Sleep phenom
17 Ersatz swing
18 Lasso
20 Piece of lumber used for flooring (Brit.)
22 Ostrich's cousin
23 Apiece
24 "Desire Under the —"
27 Stronghold
32 — constrictor
33 Dillinger's foes (Abbr.)
34 Old French coin
35 Strengthen
38 Capri, for one
39 Former M&M's color
40 Discoverer's call
42 Back-related
45 Less of a mess
49 Help a hood
50 Chic no more
52 Notion
53 Got up
54 To and —
55 Coach Chuck, who won four Super Bowls
56 "Untouchables" role
57 "— the season ..."
58 Otherwise

DOWN
1 Throw hard
2 Vicinity
3 Person at a PC
4 Half the audience?
5 Molière protagonist
6 Census statistic
7 Broadway flop
8 Large bird dog
9 Diner staffer
10 Farm fraction
11 As a result
19 Exist
21 Suitable
24 Recede
25 Brock of baseball
26 Place to settle?
28 Old, like a wd.
29 Rice dishes
30 Scale member
31 Seek damages
36 Preferences
37 Genetics abbr.
38 Common antiseptic
41 Greeting
42 "Nuts!"
43 Bassoon kin
44 Barn section
46 "American —"
47 Congers, e.g.
48 Rough breathing sound
51 Spoonbender Geller

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	P	U	D	■	P	I	P	■	S	P	O	T
A	O	N	E	■	A	L	A	■	T	A	R	O
P	O	T	B	E	L	L	Y	■	A	N	E	W
S	H	O	A	T	■	■	S	L	I	P	O	N
■	■	■	S	A	L	T	■	A	N	I	■	■
R	O	P	E	■	E	W	E	S	■	P	A	T
A	D	O	■	A	V	A	S	T	■	E	A	R
D	D	T	■	N	I	N	A	■	A	S	H	Y
■	■	R	I	O	■	G	U	L	P	■	■	■
T	H	O	R	N	S	■	■	S	P	O	I	L
S	O	A	K	■	P	A	N	D	O	W	D	Y
A	P	S	E	■	A	G	O	■	S	E	E	R
R	E	T	D	■	R	E	D	■	E	S	S	E

Yesterday's answer 12-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brian Bonsall, 28; Anna Chlumsky, 29; Bruno Campos, 36; Holly Marie Combs, 36

Happy Birthday: Focus on your professional and personal relationships if you want to keep things intact this year. You will regret making too hasty a decision. The more relaxed and open you are to other people's troubles, the better you will do. What you offer will be repaid emotionally and financially. Your lucky numbers are 2, 11, 17, 21, 23, 37, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Prepare to do things yourself. Taking on someone else's fight will tax you more than you realize. Be patient and let everything fall into place before making your next move. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't put yourself in a compromising position because you don't want to be challenged. You have what it takes to win if you push your own needs and desires. A short trip will clear up some pending issues. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Money matters will escalate if you try to buy your way out of a sticky personal situation. You may not want to give in to someone's demands but, if it will allow you the freedom to do something you want to do, it will be worth it in the end. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Separate your personal and professional goals in order to get the most mileage out of your efforts. Showing your ability to multitask will impress someone who can make a difference to your future. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take an entertaining approach to whatever situation you face at home or at work. An interesting partnership will enable you to find new means of raising or making money. Don't wait or give anyone a chance to catch up. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): If you don't put in your two cents worth, you cannot expect to have a voice when you don't like what's happening around you. You can make a difference not only to yourself but to those counting on your expertise. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your concern and interest will help you draw attention to something you believe in and want to pursue. Don't be afraid to contact someone for input. Your thoughts will be heard and met by someone with influence. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You may feel motivated to take matters into your own hands but consider the people who will be affected by your actions. Change may be inevitable and, if handled properly, can actually benefit you. Don't let your emotions get involved. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Think big. Put your thoughts into motion. You will come up with a plan that should benefit you financially. A change forced on you by a personal partnership will be to your advantage. Let the situation run its course. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Taking on too much will be your downfall. You may not like what someone is doing but, by being a good sport, you will be spared some of the blame when things don't turn out as planned. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): If you cannot follow through with the promises made you will lose the respect and confidence of someone important. There is no point in trying to push someone who isn't going to budge. Find a new venue for something you want to promote. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Do whatever it takes to get people to recognize what you are up against or trying to prove. You may not win everyone's favor but you will gain enough support to get started. Don't make someone else's confusion your problem. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and caring. You are not afraid to speak your mind. You can change your direction quickly and make snap decisions that will take you on adventures.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	5	7			1	
			2					6
8				4				
1	9							
6		7				4		8
							3	2
				2				4
9					8			
	5			1	9	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	6	5	7	4	8	2	1
1	7	5	8	3	2	6	4	9
4	8	2	9	1	6	3	7	5
8	2	1	3	9	7	5	6	4
7	9	3	4	6	5	2	1	8
5	6	4	1	2	8	7	9	3
3	4	7	2	8	9	1	5	6
6	5	8	7	4	1	9	3	2
2	1	9	6	5	3	4	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOOSE CHANGE JARS **Solution: 4 letters**

E	Y	Y	D	K	I	T	C	H	E	N	(D)	Y	Y	N
H	T	R	E	R	G	N	I	K	R	A	P	(R)	E	H
D	I	A	D	N	A	U	C	K	C	U	T	R	(O)	S
D	R	D	L	N	O	O	P	E	N	N	D	A	H	(P)
O	A	A	E	U	U	M	B	E	A	L	R	C	Q	L
N	H	Y	I	N	M	A	M	P	I	D	N	U	P	U
A	C	A	T	N	R	U	L	H	U	U	I	U	E	R
T	E	R	C	E	S	M	C	E	B	C	K	N	N	G
I	D	T	H	N	O	E	L	C	K	C	I	A	N	E
O	R	T	O	O	G	B	A	N	A	C	D	L	I	R
N	A	C	R	N	M	S	A	B	K	D	A	R	E	A
G	W	D	A	E	H	B	S	E	I	G	U	N	S	H
P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L	N	U	O	A	L	D	S
B	R	S	S	O	T	S	G	R	P	E	M	P	T	Y
A	A	Y	L	I	M	A	F	V	E	E	R	A	P	S

© 2009 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 12/3

Accumulate, Adding, Adults, Amount, Arrange, Assemble, Backup, Bank, Bedroom, Bunch, Candy, Carry, Cash, Charity, Children, Consume, Count, Cupboard, Donation, Drain, Drop, Empty, Family, Frugal, Gather, Hide, Hoard, Kitchen, Laundry, Money, Nickels, Open, Pantry, Parking, Pennies, Personal, Pour, Quick, Reward, Secret, Share, Spare, Splurge, Toss, Tray, Tuck

Yesterday's Answer: Stein

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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Looking for used cars preferably, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Suzuki & Isuzu. Must bee 2000 & above model. We pay cash! Please call 287-7676.

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or call 322-1113, 483-1113
http:kairosuniversityus.org

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- IR or Green Card holder

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or call 235-2151/2331123

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3ft-6ft $20.00–$30.00
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JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NELLY B. DELA ROSA-UNTALAN, Petitioner, v. **EMMANUEL C. UNTALAN,** Respondent.	))))))	**FCD-DI Civil Action No. 09-0646** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 10th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

WHATZIT Solution: Three Men in a Boat

TOKIO MARINE & NICHIDO FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW

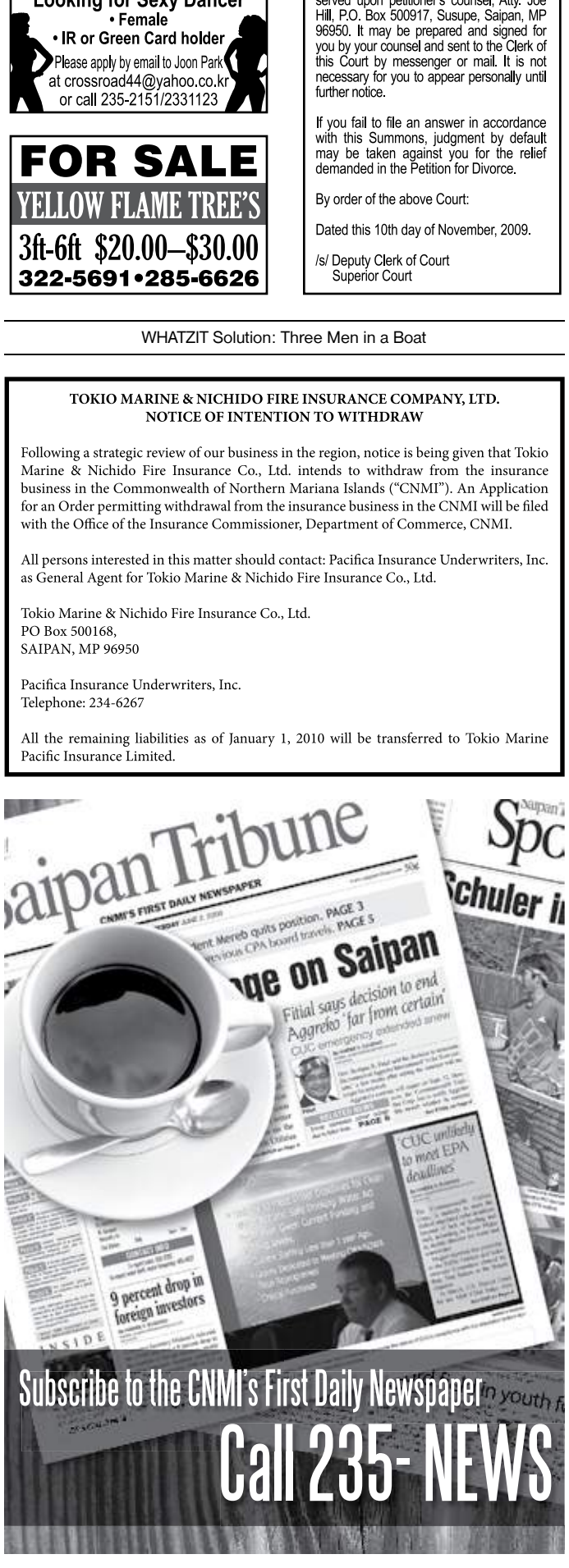
Following a strategic review of our business in the region, notice is being given that Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. intends to withdraw from the insurance business in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI"). An Application for an Order permitting withdrawal from the insurance business in the CNMI will be filed with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI.

All persons interested in this matter should contact: Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. as General Agent for Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
PO Box 500168,
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
Telephone: 234-6267

All the remaining liabilities as of January 1, 2010 will be transferred to Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited.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PONTOON

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Find today's solution in this section

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P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427 • Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD., Plaintiff, **-vs-** **IKUO YOSHIZAWA and SONIC INTERNATIONAL, INC.,** Defendants.	]]]]]]]	**Civil Action No. 06-0334** **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

Pursuant to that Stipulation and Order (filed September 18, 2009) of the CNMI Superior Court, Plaintiff Marianas Insurance Company, Ltd., through its attorney, hereby gives notice that all of Defendants' right, title and interests in the following chattels will be sold at public auction:

1. **1980 sixty-seven foot fishing vessel manufactured by Hiroshima known as the SONIC QUEEN, and described in CNMI Vessel Certificate Number CM 1649 CF as blue/white in color, with a fiberglass hull, inboard propulsion, and a 330 HP engine, presently located on Saipan, together with all parts, accessories and equipment now on or installed on such vessel; and**

2. **1994 nineteen-foot fishing boat manufactured by MIC Marine known as the STA.LOURDES, described in CNMI Vessel Certificate Number CM 309 CF as white/yellow in color, with fiberglass hull, and outboard propulsion, presently located on Saipan, together with all parts, accessories, and equipment now on or installed on such vessel.**

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. The items are being sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS";
2. The auction will be "WITH RESERVE."
3. The items are being sold WITHOUT WARRANTY of any type;
4. The public auction will be held at the Smiling Cove Marina, Saipan on **Friday; December 4, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.**;
5. Terms of the sale are cash or certified check, payable in full, immediately upon completion of the auction on Friday, December 4, 2009. In no event will the vessels or their titles be transferred to buyer without payment in full on Friday, December 4, 2009; and
6. MICO reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

MICO is attempting to collect a debt, and payment received will be used for this purpose. Any interested party may contact Mr. Freddie Benitez at (670) 234-5091 for further information. Failure to inspect the property will not be grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2009.

/s/ MARK A. SCOGGINS (F0347)
Attorney for Plaintiff

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Beasley leads Heat over Trail Blazers, 107-100

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Michael Beasley scored a season-high 27 points, Dwyane Wade had 22 points and 12 assists and the Miami Heat led from the start in beating the Portland Trail Blazers 107-100 Tuesday night.

Beasley was 8 of 15 from the field and 11 of 12 for free throws as the Heat (10-7) ended a two-game losing streak. Quentin Richardson scored 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds for Miami. The Heat shot 53.3 percent from the field (40 of 75).

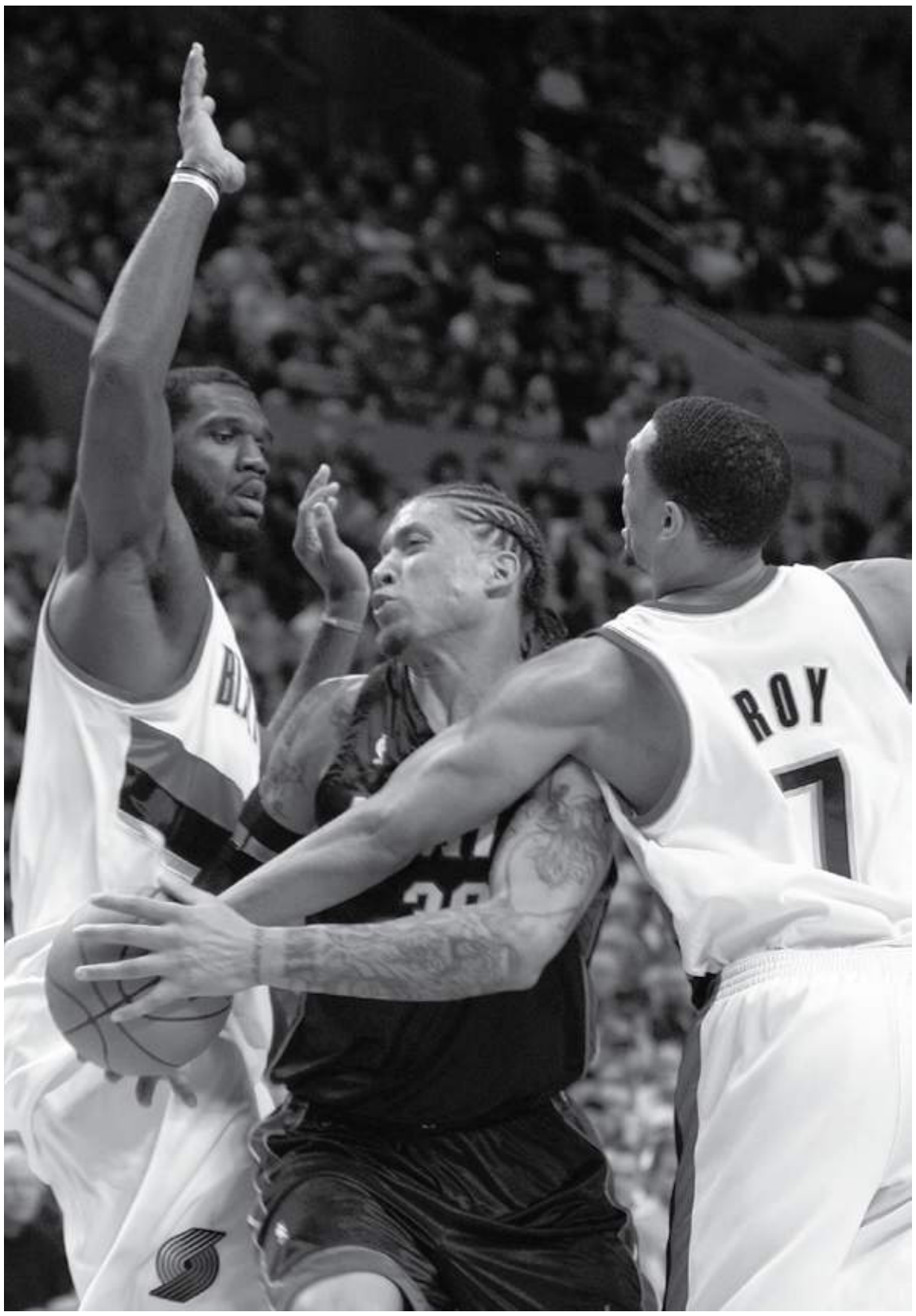
Portland, which shot .391 (34 of 87), lost its third consecutive game. The Blazers (12-8) were playing without forward LaMarcus Aldridge, who has a right knee contusion. Aldridge is the team's second-leading scorer, averaging 14.9 points per game.

Greg Oden grabbed a career-high 20 rebounds and scored 13 points for Portland. Brandon Roy led the Blazers with 25 points, including 14 during the first quarter, while Andre Miller had 18. Portland, second in the NBA in points allowed at 90.5 points per game, has given up 106, 108 and 107 points in its past three games.

Miami took control from the opening tip, scoring the game's first seven points on the way to a 32-28 lead at the end of the first quarter. Beasley was Miami's offensive centerpiece during the second quarter, scoring 13 points, including seven from the free throw line as the Heat led 60-50 at halftime.

The Blazers went on a run at Miami midway through the third quarter, when Oden scored six points during a 3-minute period that allowed Portland to close the deficit to 74-68. But Miami, led by 3-pointers from Richardson and James Jones, closed out the quarter on a 14-4 run to take a 88-72 lead into the fourth quarter.

Miami maintained a double-digit lead until the final two minutes, when the Blazers got as close as six points.



AP

Miami Heat's Michael Beasley (30) is fouled as he drives to the basket as Portland Trail Blazers' Greg Oden and Brandon Roy defend during the second quarter of their NBA basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009, in Portland, Ore.

Celtics 108, Bobcats 90

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Boston cruised past Charlotte for its fifth straight victory.

Ray Allen broke out of his shooting slump with 27 points and Kendrick Perkins added 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Celtics, who had little trouble slowing the Bobcats, who had won four straight.

Entering shooting 30 percent from 3-point range, Allen took only nine shots, but hit 5 of 6 3-pointers, including one from behind the plane of the backboard with 1 second left to give the Celtics a 62-39 halftime lead.

Charlotte never recovered as Gerald Wallace scored just five points after getting into early foul trouble. Nazr Mohammed had 16 points for the Bobcats.

Lakers 110, Hornets 99

In Los Angeles, the hosts won their seventh straight, downing New Orleans, to take the overall NBA lead.

Andrew Bynum scored 21 points and Kobe Bryant added 18 on a light night of work.

Darren Collison scored 20 points for the Hornets, who lost their fifth straight road game. New Orleans has the NBA's second-worst road record at 1-9, only ahead of the 0-11 New Jersey Nets, and is winless on the road since Nov. 9.

Nuggets 135, Warriors 107

In Denver, the home team had their biggest score of the season to record an easy win over Golden State.

Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points and Chauncey Billups had 22 to be among seven Nuggets in double figures.

Anthony Morrow's 27 points led the Warriors, who fell to 2-8 on the road.

Up by 14 at halftime, the Nuggets extended their lead to 107-84 by the end of the third quarter.

Knicks 126, Suns 99

In New York, the hosts snapped a five-game losing skid and gave their coach a resounding victory over his old team Phoenix.

Danilo Gallinari had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and David Lee added 24 points for the Knicks, who rang up a season-best 71 first-half points, then blew it open when Gallinari scored seven points in a span of barely a minute midway through the third quarter.

Steve Nash had 20 points and eight assists for the Suns, who had won four straight by an average of 21 points.

It was a sweet victory for coach Mike D'Antoni, who parted ways with the Suns after a first-round playoff loss in 2008.

Wizards 106, Raptors 102

In Toronto, Antawn Jamison had 30 points and 12 rebounds to lead Washington over Toronto.

Gilbert Arenas had 22 points and nine assists for the Wizards.

Chris Bosh had 22 points and 14 rebounds for the Raptors, who have lost four straight.

Source: 76ers offer Iverson non-guaranteed deal

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers are closer to a reunion.

A person with knowledge of the contract talks says the Sixers offered a one-year, non-guaranteed contract to Iverson on Tuesday. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the contract talks had not been made public.

Iverson, his agent and business manager met with team president Ed Stefanski, coach Eddie Jordan and two other members of the organization Monday during the first formal meeting between the Sixers and their former MVP.

Iverson announced his retirement last week after an ill-fated stint with the Memphis Grizzlies. The 10-time All-Star was NBA MVP in 2001 when he led the Sixers to the NBA finals.

Another person with knowledge of the deal, who also spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the talks had not been made public, said Iverson's decision should come Wednesday.

The person says the 76ers are taking a chance on Iverson because he's the best free-agent guard available and the financial commitment is minimal. The Sixers would owe just under $650,000 if they guarantee his contract for the remainder of the season on Jan. 10.

"What is the downside if you can cut him any time you want?" the person said.

Iverson would still need to undergo a physical before the deal is complete. As of Tuesday night, the Sixers had not heard back from Iverson's agent Leon Rose.

Iverson announced his intention to retire last week after no other team expressed an interest is signing the four-time scoring champion. The 6-foot Iverson played three games this season with Memphis before taking a leave of absence to attend to personal matters. He was waived after the two sides agreed to part ways.

He's on the brink of getting a second chance with the Sixers (5-13), who have lost seven straight entering Wednesday night's game at Oklahoma City and need Iverson to spark sagging ticket sales and their playoff chances.

This reconciliation was once thought foolish after their acrimonious split three years ago. Iverson's last game with Philadelphia was Dec. 6, 2006 in Chicago. He refused to play the fourth quarter and was banished from the team two days later. He was eventually traded to Denver as part of the Andre Miller deal, and bounced to Detroit before landing in Memphis.

The Sixers finish their four-game road trip Saturday against the Charlotte Bobcats and Iverson's former nemesis, coach Larry Brown.

Brown said Tuesday he was upset that Iverson's best option was a non-guaranteed deal.

"I get worried about that message, but I also admire Philly for giving him a chance," he said. "That's more meaningful for me. I look at a guy that scored 20,000 points and played hurt and did so much and now he's got to play for a non-guaranteed contract, that's pretty troubling for me."

If Iverson accepts the offer, his likely debut would come Monday night at home against Denver. In a double-dose of intriguing timing, the Sixers play at home Dec. 9 against Detroit.

Perhaps Iverson will show his former teams that he still has something left in the No. 3 jersey.

Or, the Nuggets and Pistons will see they made the right choice to move on without the controversial guard.

CSNPhilly.com first reported the offer.

Memphis Grizzlies owner Michael Heisley told the AP on Tuesday that he spent almost an hour on the phone with Stefanski before his meeting with Iverson.

"I told him I thought Allen had the game and I thought he would be a positive contribution to his team and was sorry it didn't work out with us. I thought to get back with Philadelphia, it was a good chance it would work out for them. I feel extremely happy about it," Heisley said.

"Quite frankly, I'm sorry that we couldn't work it out between us and Allen. I don't feel duped. I don't feel upset. I quite frankly arranged for the severance, which we could've stopped, which would've stopped him from being able to play for anybody. I did it so he would have an opportunity to go play."

The 34-year-old Iverson began an indefinite leave of absence on Nov. 7 to deal with a personal issue.

Heisley said he knew exactly what the personal matter was, but he refused to discuss that issue.

"I hope it's cleared up," he said.

Heisley believed Iverson would return at first, then said he thinks Iverson did not want to rejoin the Grizzlies for reasons that could have included retirement or possible interest from other teams.

"I hope he comes back and I hope he has a great career with them," Heisley said.

Fine, points on license for Woods over SUV crash

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—All Tiger Woods has to do is pay a $164 fine—less than a round of golf at Torrey Pines—and his dealings with Florida authorities over his infamous car accident will be over.

What hasn't ended is the public's fascination with his private life, which may get more complicated. Us Weekly magazine, which hits newsstands Wednesday, features a cover story alleging that a Los Angeles cocktail waitress had a 31-month affair with the world's No. 1 golfer—and that the proof was in 300 text messages.

Last week, just two days before Woods crashed his SUV into a fire hydrant and tree, the National Enquirer published a story alleging that Woods had been seeing a New York nightclub hostess, and that they were recently together in Melbourne, where Woods competed in the Australian Masters.

The woman, Rachel Uchitel, denied having an affair with Woods when contacted by The Associated Press.

The world's most famous athlete will be cited for careless driving outside his home in the exclusive gated community of Isleworth. It will cost him four points on his driver's license, but he will not face criminal charges, the Florida Highway Patrol said Tuesday.

Woods, who was briefly unconscious after the crash, never spoke with investigators. Instead, he provided his driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance to investigators, as required by Florida law.

The patrol "is not pursuing criminal charges in this matter nor is there any testimony or other evidence to support any additional charges of any kind other than the charge of careless driving," said Sgt. Kim Montes, a spokesman for the highway patrol. "Despite the celebrity status of Mr. Woods, the Florida Highway Patrol has completed its investigation in the same professional manner it strives to complete each traffic investigation."

After consulting with the local prosecutor's office, investigators also decided there was insufficient evidence to issue a subpoena that would have given them access to records from his hospital visit after the crash, Montes said.

Woods' agent, Mark Steinberg, declined comment on the fine and the Us Weekly story.

For days, tabloids and gossip Web sites have speculated about what happened leading up to the 2:25 a.m. wreck last Friday, including a possible dispute between Woods and his wife, Elin Nordegren, who told Windermere police she used a golf club to smash the back windows to help him out.

"There are no claims of domestic violence by any individual," Montes said.

An attorney for the neighbors who called 911 said Woods did not appear to be driving under the influence and showed no signs of having been in a fight.

Attorney Bill Sharpe said the Adams family found Nordegren kneeling beside her husband, upset about his injuries. Sharpe said Woods appeared woozy and had scratches on his face and that his wife was trying to console him. The Adamses wrapped Woods in a blanket and made sure he didn't move.

Woods withdrew Monday from his own golf tournament in California, citing injuries from the crash.

By skipping his tournament, Woods hoped to escape the TV cameras and a horde of media seeking more details. The event was to be the last of the year for Woods anyway, and he did not say when or where he would make his return next year.

For the time being, he is getting more media attention than when he won the 1997 Masters and set off the first wave of Tigermania.

According to Us Weekly, Jaimee Grubbs said she was 21 when she was approached by Woods at a Las Vegas nightclub, on April 13, 2007—which would have been five days after he finished second at the Masters and two months before the birth of his first child.

The magazine said the meeting "progressed into a clandestine on-and-off affair" that lasted nearly three years and included hundreds of texts.

"I hope he can forgive me for doing this and I know he probably can't," Grubbs is quoted as saying. "Whatever happens with Elin, I hope Tiger and I can reconnect and remain good friends."

An AP reporter went to a residence in Escondido, Calif., seeking comment from Grubbs. A person who identified himself as "Cody," who came to the door but didn't open it, said she wasn't there.

Grubbs recently appeared on VH1's reality series, "Tool Academy."

Ward sorry for questioning Big Ben's toughness

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward apologized Tuesday for openly questioning Ben Roethlisberger's toughness, saying he spoke emotionally without knowing a team doctor recommended the quarterback not play Sunday because of a concussion.

Ward talked Monday with Roethlisberger and coach Mike Tomlin in separate conversations, expressing regret for saying during a pregame NBC-TV interview that the locker room was split 50-50 whether the quarterback should play in Baltimore.

"I have apologized to Ben," Ward wrote in a posting on his Facebook page. "Ben and I are cool and always will be. We will not let this come between us, our talk was very productive."

Ward chose to make his comments public because he doesn't plan to speak further about the subject.

"I would never question a man's toughness playing in a STEELER unif(orm)," Ward wrote. "I didn't mean to cause such a stir. My frustration was based on the fact that this was a big game for us to stay in the playoff picture and having Ben out there gave us our best opp(ortunity) to win. I was frustrated because there was no indication of Ben not being able to play because he practiced a normal routine."

Ward and his teammates didn't learn until Saturday that Roethlisberger wouldn't play. Because Roethlisberger practiced as the starter all week, No. 3 quarterback Dennis Dixon was forced to make his first NFL start with little preparation during the 20-17 overtime loss.

"Now as a veteran guy on this team, you can see how upset that made a lot of us considering we were going down into the lions dens in Baltimore without our fearless leader," Ward wrote.

Dixon threw for a touchdown and ran for another, but was only 4 of 16 for 58 yards after halftime, and his interception led to Baltimore's winning field goal.

During the interview, Ward said some players masked concussions to play, and he estimated half of the Steelers have had at least one concussion. However, he didn't know that Roethlisberger was unhappy with the decision benching him—made by Tomlin upon the recommendation of neurologist Joseph Maroon—or that the quarterback lobbied the coach to change his mind.

"I know Ben wanted to play this game but the docs told him he's down, and with that we trust our docs with their decisions," Ward wrote. "We would never jeopardize anyone's health for a game of football. Life is way to(o) precious. One thing about Ben, he is a WINNER. We just wanted this game so badly."

Tomlin didn't order Ward to talk to Roethlisberger, saying, "I trusted both of those men would be professionals and quell whatever potential problems and issues that may have occurred. ... He (Ward) assured me this football team will be ready to prepare for and ultimately play Oakland (on Sunday)."

1st ANNUAL Tan Holdings TENNIS CLASSIC

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR TENNIS CLASSIC WINNERS and PARTICIPANTS!!!

Thank you to all our volunteers, event coordinators, parents, fans, coaches, supporters, and friends.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Lydia Tan
Judy Mendieta
Ed and Joana Arriola
Kirk and Carrie Schuler
Jeff Race
Peter Loyola
Vickie Izuka
Camille Orallo

GUAM DELEGATION PLAYERS AND FANS
Joe and Jean Cepeda
David and Samuel Lai

We would also like to thank the fine people at the American Memorial Park (National Park Service), Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa - Saipan, and the Pacific Islands Club for allowing us access to their tennis courts for our event.

THANK YOU!

We look forward to seeing you next year for the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Visit: www.tanholdings.com/tennis for photos and final information

Division	1st	2nd	Consolation
Boys 18 Singles	Benjie Decena	Rafael Jones	Daniel Park
Boys 14 Singles	Christian Miller	Jake Lee	Angelo Jones
Boys 12 Singles	Kennedy Izuka	Carl Dela Cruz	Quinton Ramsey
Boys 10 Singles	Geesyu Hahn	Eunsya Hahn	Tony Kim
Girls 18 Singles	Thea Minor	Vivian Lee	Theecel Minor
Girls 14 Singles	Mikayla Lopez	Negahr Rastguiy	Ashley Nadler
Girls 12 Singles	Camdyn Nadler	Alyssa Bristol	Gabrielle Race
Girls 10 Singles	Isabel Heras	Anna Calvert	Minju Kim
Mixed 10 Doubles	Gessyu+Eunsya Hahn	Julie Kim/Mimi Sakano	
Boys and Girls under 10	ALL MEDALS AWARDED TO THIS DIVISION		
Mens Open Singles	Kirk Schuler	Jeff Race	Peter Loyola
Womens Open Singles	Thea Minor	Lila Mailman	Lydia Tan
Mens 40+ Singles	Dong Min Lee	Sam Lai	Paul Jang
Womens 40+ Singles	Lydia Tan	Cleofe Santos	Sally Lee
Mens 3.0 Singles	Daniel Wollack	Dodong Salinas	Ryan Cho
Mens 4.0 Singles	Raj Rai	Buddy Garote	Rafael Jones
Womens 2.0 Singles	Carrie Schuler	Anne Song	Maya Lee
Womens 3.0 Singles	Mikayla Lopez	Lyn Liang	Vicky Izuka
Womens 4.0 Singles	Eunkyoung Lee	Dinalet Jones	Theecel Minor
Boys 14 Doubles	Jake Lee/Daniel Park	Clay McCullough-Stearns/Tommy Choi	
Boys 12 Doubles	Josh Cepeda/Brian Tuncap	Amami Sakano/Seiya Eda	
Girls 18 Doubles	Jodel Fernandez/Lila Mailman	Dinalet Jones/Melody Johnson	
Girls 14 Doubles	Alina Ishikawa/Mikayla Lopez	Amy Arenovski/Negahr Rastguiy	
Girls 12 Doubles	Alyssa Bristol/Camdyn Nadler	Adele Hudkins/Emily Jones	
Mens Open Doubles	Torgun Smith/ Wendell Roden	Jeff Race/Jihoon Heo	
Womens Open Doubles	Cleofe Santos/Thea Minor	Lydia Tan/Sally Lee	
Mens 40+ Doubles	Dong Min Lee/Lope Padilla	Peter Loyola/Eddie Wu	
Womens 40+ Doubles	Sally Lee/Lydia Tan	Joy Minor/Cleofe Santos	
Mens 2.0 Doubles	Stanley Tsang/Kenneth Yu	Feng Li/Lishen Ve	
Mens 3.0 Doubles	Paul Jang/Chong Chel Lee	Ryan Cho/Tony Reyes	
Mens 4.0 Doubles	Jaime Lai/Masahi Shinkawa	Eli Buenventura/Roy Pangelinan	
Womens 2.0 Doubles	Bonnie Decena/Gem Eugenio	Anne Song/Maya Lee	
Womens 3.0 Doubles	Seunghee Han/Sujung Lee	Sakiko Eda/Yuri Hatamata	
Womens 4.0 Doubles	Theecel Minor/Joy Minor	Delia Johnson/Letty Jones	

Sportsmanship Awards
Aaron Lee
Eddie Perez
Sally Hwang

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Special thanks to:
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan · Pacific Islands Club · Hyatt Regency Saipan · American Memorial Park

IT&E is major sponsor of MIFICPA bowling

IT&E will serve as the major sponsor of this coming Sunday's 2nd Annual Bowling Tournament organized by the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants.

The event, dubbed "One-Day Bowling Slam," will be held on Dec. 6, from 1pm to 6pm at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

MIFICPA is inviting all accountants and their friends to join the event by forming and registering their own teams of five to seven players each.

The group said teams can have accountants and non-accountants serve as players. Players on each team, however, are limited to at least two accountants and one class A bowler. Participation fee is only $10 per players or $50 per team. Deadline for registration is tomorrow, Dec. 4.

As an added treat, certified public accountants and accountants that join the event will have their membership fee waived for next year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants members in action in last year's Inaugural Bowling Tournament at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

MIFICPA earlier said the tournament is part of its commitment to help uplift the well-being of its members. Proceeds from the event will be donated to those affected by the recent typhoons that devastated the Philippines.

To be awarded at the end of the tournament are prizes for the winning teams and special prizes for accountant bowlers. MIFICPA will be printing souvenir T-shirts for the event that will be sold for only $8.

Interested players/participants should e-mail their name and contact number to any of the following: MIFICPA president Melvin Marvar at mjmalvar@yahoo.com; Irene Santiago at irene_saipan@yahoo.com; Marlon Estigoy at marlon@saipan.com; Rene Cariazo rene_cariazo@cicspn.com; and Bebilyn Estrada bebilyn_estrada@tanholdings.com. They can also call Lois Manese at 235-0605 and e-mail her at eloisa_manese@yahoo.com and text Aileen Indino at 789-0021. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Nominations for 2010 board due today

Nominations for the 2010 board of directors of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will be due tonight when the islands' sports governing meet beginning 7pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMASA president Michael White has excused himself from tonight's *tete-a-tete* and presiding in his stead will be vice president Jeff Race.

Aside from the submission of board of director nominations, NMASA will also tackle a proposal from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation to sponsor the sports body's yearly athlete awards.

Like in previous monthly meetings, NMASA will also vote for the best athletes for last month (November) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student).

White also reminded associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting.

Also expected to be tackled in today's meeting is the CNMI's participation in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

The Games are scheduled from Aug. 1 to 10, 2010 and aside from the CNMI, other Micronesian island-nations expected to participate in the seventh staging of the quadrennial meet are Guam, Yap, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MIEKO

From Page 28

pro riders.

"Of course I will try to win, but you never know what will be happen on race day. People say the lady from Australia was second place in the World Cup and she is expected to win, but everyone will still have a chance to win because you never know what will come your way this Saturday," she said.

"I am just happy and lucky to ride with them (pros). It will be a good experience and I hope it will help my racing next year," Carey added.

Besides holding her ground against off-island pros, Carey is aiming to surpass her time in 2008. After failing to join the inaugural century race in 2007, Carey became the first female rider to reach the finish line in last year's event, following her time of 3:28:05. She and Lombard had a neck-and-neck battle to the finish line, as the latter submitted 3:28:06 in the women's open road bike division.

Carey said she had already logged 100 kilometers in her training for the past three weeks to prepare for the weekend race.

"I rode with five to six guys and sometimes more people joined us. One day, we saw around 10 bikers riding at the same pace. I was happy to see many people. I also started teaching spinning class in a gym and it really helped me become stronger and faster," the 31-year-old rider said.

Carey added she is looking forward to racing with her buddies, who helped her win last year's race. The World XTERRA pro entered the finish line loop at Pacific Islands Club with Nate Hawley, Dirk Sharer, Florian Braig, Tyce Mister, and Kieran Daly, who all completed last year's race under the 3:30:00 mark.

"I want to share a great time and do the same race with my friends and people who always help and cheer for me in XTERRA and other races. I will try to cheer for all of the riders when I see them on the race course," she said.

This Saturday's race will start at the southern parking slot of PIC then riders head north to the Chalan Piao intersection, make a U-turn back to the start, and proceed south into the village of Koblerville toward the Saipan International Airport. From the airport, cyclists will ride uphill towards the villages of San Vicente, Papago and Kagman going to Laolao Bay Golf Resort. From the golf course, riders will proceed north on Isa Drive and descend down to the Kingfisher Golf Course entrance and make the U turn, scaling the long, windy road uphill to Capital Hill. At the bottom of the Capital Hill, the course converges on Chalan Pale Arnold Road to the next checkpoint high atop Radar Hill in As Matuis. The last portion of the race will have riders cruising Saipan's famous historic and scenic sites, including Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff. For the finish, cyclists will cruise Beach Road back to PIC.

REPEAT

From Page 28

in the youngest age group was Dandan Tottots who shut out Team Familia, 8-0.

Team Familia returned for the 2009 edition of the Thanksgiving tournament, but finished only third this year.

Nine teams competed in the 9 to 12 age group and squads were divided into two groups. Each group played in a round-robin elimination with the Top 2 squads in each pool advancing to the playoffs.

The 13 to 15 age group drew seven teams with Hopwood Blackout placing third. The same format was implemented in this age group with the Patriots and Kagman surviving separate semifinal games.

The 16 to 18 division had the least participants with six teams. Each squad played five games in the elimination and the Top 4 made it to the double-elimination playoffs. Joining Brabu and KHS in the Top 3 was Hopwood Oldies.

The Top 3 teams in each age group were given trophies, while members of the champion teams were awarded medals, courtesy of IT&E.

Jonathan Tenorio, one of the coordinators of the event, thanked the Division of Youth Services, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Sports and Recreation, Chamolinian Softball Association, and IT&E for supporting the two-weekend tournament.

QUIKDRAW

From Page 28

"The Terrible" Flores (split decision), Joe "Hot Shot" Cabrera (rear-naked choke), Guam's Eric "E-Dog" Santos (unanimous decision), and Brian "Shot Gun" Howard (rear-naked choke).

The Trench Tech bet, who is best know for his ground-and-pound fighting style, is excited with his bout against Castro and vowed to give spectators the fight of the night.

"I love competing in MMA and it will be a great experience fighting one of the top fighters in the Marianas in Alex Castro. I've trained hard and I'm ready. I want to win just as bad as he does so it will be the fight of the night," the 5'7" and 150-lb. fighter said.

The much shorter Castro, who stands 5'6", lost seven of his 12 fights, but his record should not be the basis to downplay his chances against Jesse.

Trench Wards promoter and Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said Castro is one of the most dangerous and experienced MMA fighters in the Marianas.

"Don't let the record fool you. Castro has fought the top fighters from around the world such as Japan, California, Canada, Hawaii, and of course Guam. He has fought and taken to the distance Guam's top fighter in the lightweight class, Baby Joe "The Juggernaut" Taimanglo, losing by split decision both times. He is a man on a mission and vows to break the perfect streak of Trench Tech's top gun, Fasi Jesse," Alvarez said.

The 29-year-old Castro will be fighting out of Guahan Top Team/Underworld Xtreme and will be using his free style fighting skills to hand Jesse his first loss.

Four of Castro's five wins were via knockouts. He had knockout wins over Guam's Dave Pangelinan, Chris Duenas, and Kurt Guerrero, and California's Josh Hayes. His other victory was against another Guam fighter Rob Gutterz (rear-naked choke).

The Pacific Xtreme Combat/Geran Haga veteran lost to Hawaii's Kyle Miyahana, Canada's Mark Holst, Japan's Yoichi Fukumoto and Tomonori Taniguchi, and Guam's Taimanglo and Micah Tobias.

For more information about Redemption and other Trench Tech events, contact Alvarez at 483-4MMA.

BIGGER

From Page 28

other squads.

Returning to defend its title next season is Micronesian Brokers, Inc. MBI came out of the lower half of the team standings in the regular season to win the championship and mark the inaugural caging with an upset.

Also competing next year are runners-up Advance Xterminators, G4S Security, Pepsi, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and host Shirley's. Expected to join them are newcomers Bank of Guam, Microl Corp., McDonald's, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Mobil, and Aqua Resort Club.

Lingcaso said these six new teams were sent invitations and had already expressed their interest in joining the league next year.

Lingcaso added they are eyeing to open shop on Jan. 3 to give way to other ongoing leagues. Games will still be played at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

"Shirley's is looking for another successful tournament and just like last year, we will be giving out additional raffle prizes to players and spectators," Lingcaso said.

In last year's Shirley's caging, the Kitz Barja-coached MBI stunned pennant champion G4S in the semifinals, 66-59, to advance to the best-of-three title series.

In the championship series, MBI swept the favored X-Terminators, winning Games 1 (74-71) and 2 (89-70). The X-Terminators made it to the finals after pulling off an upset over Fiesta Resort in the other semis match (87-80).

G4S defeated Fiesta in the battle for third place, 81-64. The Top 3 teams received trophies, while top individual performers were also given awards.

MBI's Don Sese took the Finals MVP plum, while Shirley's Fradel Sedillo won the regular season MVP award. Sedillo also made it to the Mythical Team, joining Fiesta Resort & Spa's Elmer Esdrelon, G4S' Junar Guiab, Advance's Rocyl Ritual, and MBI's Art Trajano.

Trajano, Guaib, and Esdrelon notched one more individual award each with the MBI center winning the best in blockshots award. He averaged 1.25 blocks per match in the regular season. Guiab had a 75.47 percent clip from the 15-foot line to win the best in free throw award, while Esdrelon led the league in three-point shooting, making at least three in every game.

Fiesta' John March Ong and G4S' Amancio Chavez were the two other individual awardees in the league, winning the best in rebounds and steals categories, respectively, while Barja was adjudged Best Coach.

For more information about next year's Shirley's caging, contact Lingcaso at 233-4519 or 287-2926.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	14	4	.778	–
Toronto	7	12	.368	7 1/2
Philadelphia	5	13	.278	9
New York	4	14	.222	10
New Jersey	0	17	.000	13 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	14	4	.778	–
Atlanta	12	5	.706	1 1/2
Miami	10	7	.588	3 1/2
Charlotte	7	10	.412	6 1/2
Washington	6	10	.375	7

Central Division

Cleveland	12	5	.706	–
Milwaukee	9	7	.563	2 1/2
Chicago	6	9	.400	5
Indiana	6	9	.400	5
Detroit	6	11	.353	6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	13	5	.722	–
San Antonio	9	6	.600	2 1/2
Houston	9	8	.529	3 1/2
New Orleans	7	11	.389	6
Memphis	6	12	.333	7

Northwest Division

Denver	13	5	.722	–
Portland	12	8	.600	2
Utah	10	7	.588	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	9	8	.529	3 1/2
Minnesota	2	15	.118	10 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	14	3	.824	–
Phoenix	14	4	.778	1/2
Sacramento	8	8	.500	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	8	10	.444	6 1/2
Golden State	6	11	.353	8

Yesterday's Games

Boston 108, Charlotte 90
Washington 106, Toronto 102
New York 126, Phoenix 99
Denver 135, Golden State 107
Miami 107, Portland 100
L.A. Lakers 110, New Orleans 99

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic

Photos By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tinian's Rolando Decena serves while brother and teammate Sonny Decena looks on during their quarterfinals game against a Guam team in the men's 4.0 doubles.

Mimi Sakano and Julie Kim in action during the 10-and-under doubles game.

Sonny Decena goes for a shot near the net against Guam's Jamie Lai.

Dina Jones prepares to serve against Theecel Minor during their game in the girls' 18-and-under singles.

Ji Hoon Heo, left, and Jeff Race struggle to return a shot from Torgun Smith.

Guam's Wendell Roden stretches for a return during his and teammate Torgun Smith's open doubles game against Saipan's Peter Loyola and Kirk Schuler.

Rafael Jones reacts after chasing the ball near the net.

Torgun Smith goes for a volley during their game against Saipan's Peter Loyola and Kirk Schuler.

Andy Nutting hits a shot from the baseline against Rafael Jones during their boys' 18-and-under singles match.

A.J. Hudkins goes for a forehand return during his game against Haruya Eda in the boys' 10-and-under singles division of the Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts last month.

IT&E is major sponsor of MIFICPA bowling

IT&E will serve as the major sponsor of this coming Sunday's 2nd Annual Bowling Tournament organized by the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Beasley leads Heat over Trail Blazers, 107-100

Michael Beasley scored a season-high 27 points, Dwyane Wade had 22 points and 12 assists and the Miami Heat led from the start in beating the Portland Trail Blazers 107-100 Tuesday night. 24

Mieko ready to race vs Aussie pro

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mieko Carey's wish for an easy race in the 3rd Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle may not happen, as she will be defending the women's division title against an Aussie pro.

"Every year after XTERRA World, I feel more relaxed and would want to take it easy in upcoming tournaments. I just want to have fun and not feel pressured. However, this Saturday, a pro from Australia will be joining the Hell of Marianas. I was told she is strong and fast and people will be expecting us to have a tight race," Carey said.

The Saipan triathlete is talking of Amber Halliday of Adelaine, Australia, who will be among the more than 20 off-island riders to compete in this Saturday's 100-kilometer race. Halliday, last year's runner-up Chiyo Lombard of Guam, and Carey are expected to duke it out for the women's championship.

Halliday is a former Olympian and won medals (three silver and three bronze) at the World Championships (rowing competition) from 2000 to 2007 before switching to cycling late last year.

Despite competing in cycling for only less than a year, the Australian pro has already started making a name in her new sport. Halliday trained with the South Australian Sports Institute and topped the NZCT Women's Cycle Tour of New Zealand in February this year.

Though Carey is expecting to have a tough time defending her title against her favored foes, she said no one knows what will happen during race day so she will just savor the moment of racing against

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mieko Carey and her "support group" cruise along Capital Hill road during last year's Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle.

Repeat champs in Thanksgiving softball tilt

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hopwood Junior High School's players and coaches in the 13 to 15 and 16 to 18 age groups pose for a group photo after the elimination round of the 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Youth Slowpitch Softball Tournament at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two teams successfully defended their titles on Sunday during the 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Youth Slowpitch Softball Tournament at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Brabu ruled the 16 to 18 age group of the annual youth tournament after slipping past Kagman High School in the finals, 12-9. Brabu, which means strong in Chamorro, also topped last year's competition when it defeated North All-Stars, 9-5, in the 2008 championship game.

Duplicating Brabu's feat were the Patriots, who whipped Kulan Zamu in the 13 to 15 age group finals, 9-1. The Pats, who were composed of several players from this year's champion team in the Junior League division of the Saipan Little League Baseball, prevailed in last year's 13 to 15 age group finals after beating Kagman, 5-2.

In the 9 to 12 age group, there is a new champion in Kagman, which downed the Twins in the finals, 9-2. Last year's winner

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Bigger Shirley's caging eyed in 2010

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Micronesian Brokers, Inc.'s R.J. Nonato goes for a fastbreak layup against Advance X-Terminators defenders during their championship game in the inaugural Shirley's caging mid this year at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A bigger and better Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League will be in the offing next year with six more teams expected to join the second edition of the competition.

League coordinator Boy Lingcaso said the six teams from the inaugural Shirley's caging will be back next year and will be joined by six

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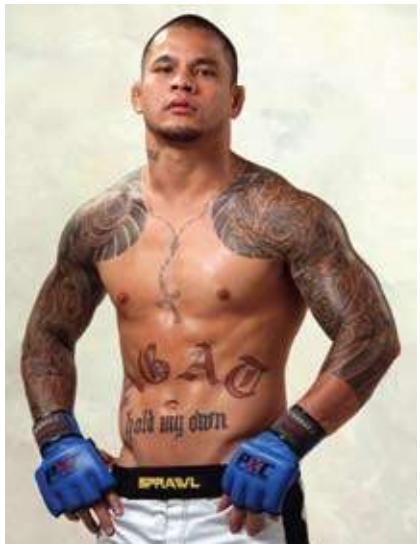

Castro

'Quikdraw' to stake perfect record in Trench Warz XI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan's Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse will put his immaculate record on the line when he collides with Guam's Alex Castro in one of the two main events in Trench Wars XI: Redemption.

The Jesse-Castro duel is scheduled for Dec. 18 at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort and will be one of the highlights in the Saipan vs. Guam II collision. The other will be the bout between Jason "The Rush" Tarkong and Guam's Gil "The Guamaniac" Melo.

The 29-year-old Jesse won all his first six fights, including a TKO victory over Castro's fellow Guam fighter, Kyle "The Killa" Quinata. Jesse's five other wins were against Joe "Superstar" Lisua (submission), Nate

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Jesse